■ LIFESTYLE/I1
Quarterly Special: Limited space, utmost living

■ WORLD/A28
Iconic Empire State bldg in New York City turns 75

■ NEWS/A10
GMA heckler leads S. Tagalog protest marchers

■ METRO/A24
4 latest 'reflection spots' on the road to Antipolo for Marian pilgrims

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, April 30, 2006 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 143 P18 www.inq7.net

Globe's latest mobile tech: Talk, see and be seen

By Abigail L. Ho

WHEN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) get homesick, a phone call to loved ones back home is a sure way to make them smile.

What if they could see their loved ones' smiling faces via a video call? What if the video call had the same rate as an international voice call? *(See Globe Supplement.)*

A-SECTION

Army officers not amused by Sgt. Pacman's KO look

By Dona Pazzibugan

IT'S AMUSEMENT LOSS—but some military officers don't think so.

Boxing idol Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao's un-military look when he visited Philippine Army headquarters last Thursday

A-SECTION

Palace sets 1017 powers

Emergency decree to be imposed if rallies turn into armed threat

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS GOOD
The Pangi River in Maasin town, Sarangani, with its clean, clear waters downstreaming against a backdrop of lush vegetation is considered one of the best white-water tubing destinations in the province. It is a 1.5-km. run snaking past huge boulders, six drop points or rapids, and roots of trees before winding up at a clean site. *(Story on Page A21.)*

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan

AS MILITANT GROUPS MOBILized for massive Labor Day protests, Malacañang yesterday threatened to reimpose an emergency decree if demonstrations turned into an armed challenge against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo is taking no chances.

She has called an emergency meeting of the Cabinet security cluster for early tomorrow morning so that all her advisers would be around should she decide to issue a declaration similar to Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor told the Inquirer.

The Philippine National Police has also placed its forces in Metro Manila on the highest state of alert, starting at dawn today.

Defensor said an emergency declaration would take the same form as PP 1017, Ms Arroyo's legal weapon against coup plotters which she imposed for one week on Feb. 24 and whose constitutionality is being questioned before the Supreme Court.

"It will be the same draft, it will have the same basis, and the President will have the same powers," Defensor said.

Leftist groups are planning to mobilize from 20,000 to 30,000 protesters in Metro Manila tomorrow. The number will apparently include workers and farmers from Southern Tagalog provinces who have begun a march to link up with their counter-

PALACE A-14

To the wonders of Internet, add fundraiser for sick kids

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—KIDD FUND-RAISING for ailing children to the wonders wrought by the Internet.

Last month a woman who goes by the chat nickname "Tgeorgie" auctioned her self off online for a date. The winning bidder ultimately stood her up, but she made P2,050 for her trouble.

Another woman who calls herself "Jhoell" offered her services online as a one-day maid—and drew a bigger amount of P5,080.

The two Baguio-based women conferred in hide behind their chat-room names even when the money they earned became part of a donation to finance the operation of 9-year-old Jamy John Tayao, who is afflicted with a heart ailment.

But the anonymity is just fine for a group of Good Samaritans mounting concerts for the benefit of needy residents of the summer capital.

Musician Gamad Mariano, a country-western star in Baguio, and Ramon Bautista, city public information officer, have staged more than 100 concerts in the last 14 years to raise funds for children in need of medication or hospital care.

Mariano said they had never considered the Internet until March, when they were enticed by a pitch to go online.

That was the time a report on Jamy Tayao's plight was posted on the Internet by the online newspaper Baguio City dot Com (hosted by www.baguiocity.com).

Jerry Magcase, administrator of the online paper, recalled that Dawnet brought Jamy's condition to his attention in February.

So he posted a news item on Jamy, along with a letter from his mother, Jocelyn, who provided details of her child's

TO THE WONDERS A2

Like any two people in love, Dennis, Grace walk down the aisle

By Volt Contreras

HE DIGS THE "OLDIES," SHE HUMS THE TOP 10. HE likes checkered shirts; she hates them. He's mad about action-packed computer games; she's cozy with Solitaire.

But an odd couple they're not. They both like things blue. Each finds the other patient, yet adroit (prone to jealousy). And both have spent their lives on crutches fitted with wheels, right up to the altar where they exchanged marriage vows.

A man and a woman born with cerebral palsy and who have been waging an advocacy for persons with disabilities (PWD) tied the knot yesterday at the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Quezon City, allowing the Inquirer to take part in the celebration and help them spread a mes-

LIKE ANY I A3

NOT EXACTLY MARCHING down the aisle but Dennis Bagan, vice president of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Philippines, and his bride Grace Salazar say, "Don't focus on our disability but what we can do."

Inquirer still No. 1, survey affirms

THE READERS HAVE SPOKEN.

With an estimated 1,316,800 daily readers nationwide, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is still the country's No. 1 newspaper, according to the latest survey by Nielsen Media Research.

The same survey called the "Media Index" ranked Manila Bulletin second with an estimated 1.455 million readers and Philippine Star a far third with about 833,000 readers nationwide.

The survey was conducted in February this year among 2,500 respondents aged 10 years and older from all socioeconomic classes in Metro Manila and 20 cities in the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

"We are happy and proud of the fact

INQUIRER A4

SOURCE: NIELSEN MEDIA INDEX 2006

Applause, thanks for the man everyone called 'Uncle Bob'

By Fe Zamora

WITH A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE, family members and friends of Philippine television pioneer Robert Stewart expressed eternal thanks "for everything" and bade farewell to the man everyone called "Uncle Bob."

Stewart founded GMA Network Inc. in 1950 when he beamed his first radio transmissions over the AM airwaves from a makeshift radio station at the back of a bakery in Angeles City, Pampanga. Ten years later, the Republic Broadcasting System would launch out into television, giving rise to the giant GMA Network Inc.

Stewart passed away on April 6 in Phoenix, Arizona. The urn containing his ashes was flown back to the Philippines last week as it was his request.

Yesterday the urn was entombed at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina where his wife, Loreto, is also buried.

"He left us with good memories. I think we are very fortunate to have had him," said Stewart's son, Jody.

Jody is second to the youngest child of Stewart and Loreto. His siblings are Nida, Mil and Leslie. Stewart also left behind 16 grandchildren.

Jody said his father's life revolved around broadcasting. In fact, when Jody was born, his father had to rush from the hospital to the station "because that day they batted on the transmitter," he said.

Stewart made his first radio transmission on March 1, 1950, Jody's birthday.

APPLAUSE A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Cha-cha backers unfazed by Cory et al.

By Blanche S. Rivera and Macip Carvajal

PROPONENTS OF THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S initiative to amend the Constitution said yesterday they were unfazed by the new anti-Cha-cha coalition led by former President Corazon Aquino, even as three other associations announced the formation of a movement opposed to rushing constitutional amendments before a clean-up at the Commission on Elections.

Sigaw ng Bayan spokesperson Raul Lambino said local government units had pledged to mobilize people for a plebiscite to ratify their changes to the Constitution and they were ready to take on Aquino's "STOP Cha Tenancy Group at Personal Election" movement.

"We don't feel threatened," Lambino said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday. "Let's see if they succeed. Game on, then."

Sigaw ng Bayan, a coalition of 500 organizations pushing for Charter changes, claims to have gathered at least 8.3 million signatures for a people's initiative.

The signatures would be submitted to the Comelec on May 22 to show that there is a chance for constitutional amendments, and that the Comelec should call for a plebiscite to approve the amendments.

Battle lines drawn

STOP Cha-Cha, launched by Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and other opposition, religious and militant leaders before the weekend, said it was mounting a campaign to recall the signatures gathered by Sigaw ng Bayan.

"The battle lines have now been drawn; it is now a fight between the people on the one hand and the administration and its allies, comprised of a ragtag group that seems to condemn imposing their selfish and capricious," Lambino said.

Meanwhile, the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, the Kapisanan ng Panghukumang Katolikong Edukador (KPE) and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines said they had come together to form the National Action for Political Renewal and Solidarity or Nigros. Leaders of the group include Randy Fabros of The Gardens Aratuty Intsia.

"The hope to fill the gap for a missing people power which at the moment has taken on the character of a people's initiative for railroading the Charter change," said IDS president Johnny Escalona.

Clean-up Comelec

He said the movement was hoping its advocacy on cleaning up the Comelec before any institutional amendments were undertaken.

"No other demands shall be made by the group except to ask Ms to Cha-cha and the people's initiative and to express a lack of confidence in the current leadership of the Comelec," Escalona said.

The group plans to hold concerts "light assemblies on three successive Saturdays starting May 6 at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

No banners, politicos

"To distinguish it from other rallies, there will be no banners of participating organizations, no shouting and no politicians on stage," Escalona said.

Fabros said other groups were welcome to join the movement "so long as they follow the movement's rules."

Senate President Franklin Drilon, one of the STOP Cha-Cha leaders, said the anti-Charter charge drive would die all by itself once people's initiative.

"We will withdraw to oppose the people's initiative because it is illegal and deceptive. We will ward off all moves worthwhile to us," Drilon said, adding that more resources were expected to join STOP Cha-cha.

All about control

In another related development, Malacañang said yesterday that the people opposed to Charter change would change their minds if they had control of the process.

"It is obvious that even the anti-cha-cha sectors now acknowledge the need for changes in our Constitution as we could address the problem of too much politicking that has hindered national progress," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "But they refuse to join the genuine people's initiative for constitutional reforms because they fear losing control over the entire process."

Bunye was reacting to the formation of the new anti-Cha-cha coalition.

He said the President remained confident that "the people will succeed in their desire for genuine reforms in our political system."

Aquino has lost her hold?

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has downplayed the capabilities of the new coalition, saying that Aquino had lost her hold on the "yellow crowd."

But he acknowledged that temporary restraining orders issued by the court against the Comelec verifying the signatures collected by Sigaw ng Bayan could slow down the whole process.

"If press release, we can get cha-cha, or vice versa," he said, referring to the plan to convert Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution and pave the way for the reelection of a midcourse(r) pro-Gloriaista system. With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Jil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armando B. Mercene

GMA says she favors cutting tariffs on oil imports

By Carlo P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
in Manila

BACOLOD CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo favors a tariff cut on imported oil products to help lessen the price of fuel in the domestic market.

"Reduction of tariff on oil is one for the best option we can undertake in a collective scale to cushion the impact of the spiraling oil prices in the world market without prejudicing economic growth or foregoing vital pro-poor programs," the President said here yesterday.

Under the government's plan, tariffs on oil imports would be reduced to between 3 percent and 5 percent within the next few months.

The tariff cut would mean foregone revenues of up to P13.5 billion.

Mr. Arroyo, who spoke at the Visayas Forum of the Philippine Press conference here, also called on local executives to help in easing the pressure on oil prices.

He also asked them to help in promoting the use of oil substitutes like ethanol, auto gas and coco diesel.

"Let us also all plant jatropha together in our towns and cities," she urged, saying it was a perfect and 100 percent solid fuel and the fuel of the future that will open up new locals for agri-business.

President Arroyo invited town and city councils to participate in the jatropha program by allocating counterpart funds.

She said she had ordered the Philippine National Oil Corp.-Petrochemical Corp. to concerted raise the P82/C Richard Corp. and allocated P500 million to promote the cultivation of jatropha, whose seeds can be a perfect substitute for diesel fuel.

Jatropha is a perennial crop that grows in arid regions. The oil extracted from the jatropha seed has the same characteristics as diesel.

She also cited the promotion of ethanol production from sugarcane in Negros Occidental as part of her administration's efforts to develop alternative sources of fuel in the country.

In Manila, seven economic advisers to Mr. Arroyo proposed that all increases in the prices of petroleum products should not be covered by the 12 percent value added tax (VAT) on oil in order not to further add to the burden on consumers.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said that collecting a fixed amount on petroleum products would mean a virtual surge in an excise tax normally for petroleum which was more appropriate at this time of widely growing world oil prices.

"We should retain the tax per liter by exempting new price increases from the 12 percent. That means lowering it (the tax) in these levels. Eventually, we should revert to an excise tax as oil prices are too volatile," Salceda said.

By pegging the tax on oil to a fixed amount, the government would get the revenue base level pegged from oil sales while giving consumers pocket relief from rising oil prices.

Salceda earlier proposed the suspension of the 12-percent VAT on oil for the next eight months to calm the "silent fear" of consumers against the spiraling prices of fuel, power and food goods.

But Mr. Arroyo stood firm on her Cabinet's decision to keep the oil tax.

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España, Manila
FACULTY OF CIVIL LAW

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The applicant must be a holder of a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree, or a candidate for graduation for such degree by March 2006, and must have earned the required units in English, Social Sciences and Mathematics.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. College Transcript of Scholastic Records. However, if the applicant is graduating on March 2006, an official copy of temporary transcript containing college records from first year up to the first semester of the fourth year should be submitted instead;

2. Two (2) 1"x 1½" colored ID pictures;

3. Two (2) Certificates of Good Moral Character with school seal:

a. For UST graduates, one of the certificates should come from OSA and one from the Dean of the previous college.

b. For non-UST graduates, one from the Guidance office or its equivalent and one from the Dean of previous college;

c. Applicants who are working must submit an additional Certificate of Good Moral Character issued by the current employer.

4. Application and Testing fee; and

5. Duly accomplished application forms. The forms will be issued by the Dean's office only upon submission of ALL THE REQUIREMENTS.

NOTE:
ALL requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination day.

APPLICATION SCHEDULE:
Monday thru Friday (9-12 NN; 1-4 PM) Office of the Dean

EXAMINATION SCHEDULES:
8-12 AM - March 17, April 17 and May 5, 2006

VENUE OF EXAMINATION:
Reading Room of the Faculty of Civil Law, Ground Floor, UST Main Building.

FOR INQUIRIES:
SEE THE DEAN'S OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.ust.edu.ph, click on academics or call 731-4027 or 731-0198 local 8231.

The Ministry of Education (Singapore) is pleased to offer ASEAN Scholarships to outstanding students for studies in selected secondary schools and junior colleges in Singapore, leading to the General Certificate of Education (Advanced) Level Examination. The scholarships are offered in line with the Singapore Government's long-term objective of helping our ASEAN neighbours develop human resource.

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Who can apply

Applicants must:
- be Filipino born between 1990 – 1992
- have been consistently well in their school examinations
- have completed at least two (2) year of High School. Preferences will be given to applicants who have scored good grades in their 3rd year High School Examinations.

A good record of participation in co-curricular activities would be an advantage.

Value of Award
- Scholarship allowance of S$2,200 (approx P1,000 Pesos) (Secondary 1) S$2,400 (approx P2,000 pesos) (Pre-University) per annum with basic accommodation
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Application

Application forms with more details on the scholarship can be obtained from any of the following addresses:

Embassy of the Republic of Singapore
20th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines

or

Ministry Of Education
School Placement & Scholarships Branch
Scholarships Section,
3rd Level, Pentagon Block,
1 North Buona Vista Drive,
Singapore 138675

More information on the scholarship and request for application forms can be obtained through our website at:
http://www.moe.gov.sg/asean/scholarships/

Requests for application forms by post from the Singapore Embassy must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope (or best return by Courier). The envelope should be marked 'ASEAN Scholarships for the Philippines' on the top left hand corner.

Closing Date

Completed application forms, together with relevant supporting documents, must reach the Singapore Ministry of Education by **June 9, 2006**.

THERE IS NO BOND ATTACHED TO THE SCHOLARSHIP

We regret that incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be entertained.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit for a selection test or to be selected on interview in August 2006. Successful candidates will arrive in Singapore in early November to attend a Preparatory bridging course before joining Singapore schools in January 2007.

Wage boards studying pay increase issues

By Jovenia Aning

THE NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY Commission yesterday ordered the 17 Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPB) were monitoring and reviewing wage conditions in the country.

NWPC officer-in-charge Executive Director Ruben Canada said the wage boards "are currently studying the wage issues" raised by the different labor groups to wage orders issued last year.

But the official of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) yesterday rejected wage adjustments through the wage boards and called on workers to directly negotiate with management for pay increases.

"It is better left to the companies to decide and work out with their employees how much wage increases they can give," said Ecop governor Donald Dee, who is also president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Earlier, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said it would ask for a P70 across-the-board daily wage increase. Militant labor groups such as the Kilusang Mayo Uno are pushing for a legislated P125 wage hike.

Dee said employer representatives in the wage boards would turn down any wage hike.

"We will try to settle issues within the RTWPBs," he said. "However, if we don't agree, we will most likely have a 'no' vote recorded."

The Ecop official added that even the Catholic Church's view that employers had the ability to grant wage hikes was incorrect.

"Companies are really in dire straits these times; few are really earning while the rest are fighting for their survival," he said. "If employers pursue for a wage hike, many companies would be forced to downsize and this would lead to more people without work."

Canada echoed Dee's sentiment, saying that "while the policy of minimum wage fixing is to protect the purchasing power of lower-income workers, it is also aimed at preserving existing jobs."

In the National Capital Region, the minimum wage stands at P320 per day after the RTWPB-NCR granted a P15 increase to the basic wage on June 16, 2005.

Congress last enacted a minimum wage law in 1989. Since then, it has delegated the power to fix the minimum wage to RTWPBs.

Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo will distribute scholarships and training certificates to those wishing to apply at call centers and other cyber services firms.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Mrs Arroyo would distribute the first 10,000 of the total 100,000 scholarship certificates during stops at Mabalacat.

Memberships in unions down

THE NUMBER OF WORKERS JOINING LABOR unions in the Philippines is declining due to new work arrangements, the National Statistics and Coordination Board said.

NCSB said only around 12 percent or 1.9 million of the 16 million formal sector workers were members of unions or organized labor groups compared to the number of union members in the 1970s.

"This is because of new work arrangements and the global economy. More people would rather be independent contractors or entrepreneurs than employees," NCSB executive director Irma Cardoz said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday.

When asked if contractualization was a reason for the declining union membership, Cardoz said it was one part of the new work arrangements.

"This is not just in the Philippines. The declining union (membership) is a global phenomenon," he said, adding that there were advantages to it in this era of a global economy.

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines spokesperson Alex Agulto admitted that it was difficult to organize workers because 90 percent of all employers in the country were small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Blanche S. Rivera

Labor Day pay guidelines issued

By Jovenia Aning

LABOR DAY, WHICH FALLS ON MONDAY, IS A regular holiday nationwide with those reporting for work entitled to extra pay according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday in a circular issued to private sector employers that the following rules should be observed on the regular holiday of May 1:

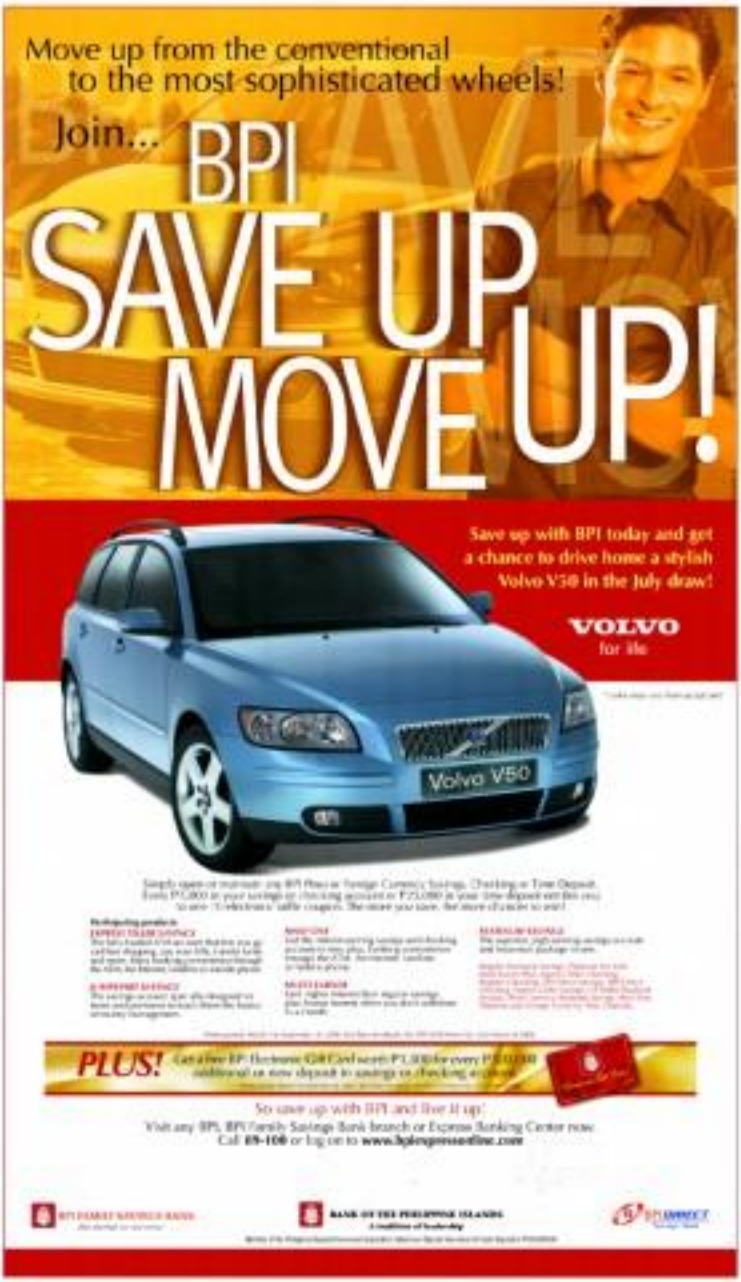
If the day is an employee's regular workday and the day is unworked, he or she should be paid 100 percent of his or her regular salary for that day.

If the day is worked, the employee should be paid 200 percent of his rate for the first eight hours and an additional 30 percent of the hourly rate in excess of eight hours of work.

If the day falls on an employee's rest day and is unworked, he or she should be paid on that day.

However, if the day is worked, the employee shall be paid 200 percent of his daily rate plus 30 percent. For work in excess of eight hours, he shall be paid an additional 30 percent of the hour's rate on that day.

The country celebrates tomorrow its 104th Labor Day. The first Labor Day was marched by the country's first workers' union, the Union Obrera Democratica de Filipinas, in 1902.



Parents to sue pre-need firms all over country

By Alexis Pupa

BOLORINA OF PARENTS EDUCATION PLANS said yesterday they were determined to file "syndicated estafa" charges in courts all over the country against the owners of pre-need companies who had failed to pay for the tuition and other school fees of their children as provided for under the plans.

Philip Pecson, president of the Parents Enabling Parents' Coalition, told a general assembly of plan holders that the move was meant to compel pre-need companies to honor and pay their obligations as spelled out in the education plans they had entered the public for the purchase.

"Tell to one each and every officer of every pre-need company in courts from Aparri to Jolo," Pecson told the assembly. "We are not out for vengeance; we just want them to honor their obligations to us."

Pointing out the need for concerted action with "one voice," Pecson added, "The reality is that we are all alone because we cannot depend on government agencies and most of the politicians."

About 4,000 holders of plans sold by such companies as Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), College Assurance Plan, Phinlucon Plans, Capitol and The Professional Group attended the assembly at the St. Paul College gym in Pasig City.

Pecson estimated that up to two million students and their parents were affected by the failure of pre-need companies to pay their obligations under the education plans which the companies claimed had failed because of sharply higher tuition increases and other "financial difficulties."

Last Wednesday, Pecson and a group of PPI plan holders filed "syndicated estafa" charges at the Manila prosecutor's office against PPI directors and officers led by tycoon Alfonso Yuchengco. Other people named in the suit included Helen Yuchengco Gotr, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Yvonne Yuchengco and Jesus Yuchengco Sanchez.

As defined by Marcos-era Presidential Decree 1689, "syndicated estafa" is fraud committed by five or more people and is punishable with life imprisonment or death.

The complaint charged that PPI "pretended that they had the capacity to honor their contractual obligations and assume the risks inherent in their open-ended plans and were able to induce members of the general public to join with their hard-earned money to purchase them."

It said PPI "self-registered and artificially controlled their sense of financial fairness."

PPI president Alfredo J. Yao denied that PPI had misled the public. He said in a statement that "sky-rocketing tuition and other school fees" had placed the company in financial constraints.

"This put an enormous pressure on the ever-expanding 'war' funds of the open-ended education plans," he said, adding this was the reason PPI discontinued open-ended plans as early as 1992.

He added that PPI opted for financial rehabilitation, under conditions approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, to enable it "manifest its assets its obligations."

THE CHILDREN of slain Filipino journalists who are recipients of scholarships from the British-based Dart Media Study Foundation, the Kanlungan ng Kasulatan and the NUJP pose with British Ambassador Peter Beckingham (standing at center).

Children of slain scribes find hope in scholarships

By Tina G. Santos

ALYSSA JANE MIRANGGAL, 14, and Rica Christian Bacior Datu, 8, were happy enough to have finished second year high school and grade one, respectively, with honors; but they would feel even happier still if their fathers were still around.

Alyssa and Rica are among the children of journalists whose lives have been shattered after their fathers or mothers were murdered.

Alyssa's father, Romeo Miranggal, was on his way to their home in Pilar, Bataan, when he was gunned down in September 2004.

Three years earlier, Rica's father, Rolando Datu, was shot dead in Lucena, 7 km west of Kalilo, Aklan.

"I strive hard to do good in school so that my father would be proud of me," Alyssa said.

She said that school work was hard, but added that she found comfort in knowing that many people have been helping her and her family cope with the loss of a loved one.

Alyssa and Rica are among those able to return to school after being awarded scholarships offered to children of journalists killed in the last 20 years.

"I'm thankful for the help that was extended to us. I could never thank [the organizations involved in the program] enough," Alyssa said.

Both are among the eight college, nine high school and 16 grade school students chosen to comprise the first batch of beneficiaries of the Scholarship Program of the British-based Dart Media Study Foundation (DMSF), the Kanlungan ng Kasulatan (KnK) and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

"This doesn't mean that justice has been done to the victims but I hope it will ease the difficulties for those they have left behind. It also doesn't mean that the search for justice can now be stopped," the NUJP said in the scholarship program.

The group is also monitoring the 76 cases of the Filipino journalists who have been killed since 1986.

The scholars are provided a subsidy equivalent to public school rates, to cover tuition and other fees for the elementary, high school and college levels. They are also given monthly allowances.

"I'm very thankful that my four children have been granted scholarships. This is a big help for me in providing them with their education. With the grant, I can concentrate on finding ways to meet our daily expenses," said Elvie Sanchez, widow of Romeo Sanchez who was killed in March 2005.

The death of Sanchez traumatized his eldest child, Arenina Gatmaitan, 14. She said her father's death had made her hesitant about pursuing a course in journalism which she gets to enjoy.

"After what happened to my father, I'm still thinking about it," said Arenina, who added she used to write for her school paper. "Right now, I just want justice for my father."

Jose Torrevillas, Kanlungan chair, said the government and the private sector would do well to take part in helping out the scholars' families.

"We look forward to more local consumers and other sectors getting involved in similar initiatives. This is a step we should take not only for the oppressed families of murdered journalists but for the betterment of our society," he said.

Palanca awards deadline tonight

THE DON CARLOS PALANCA MEMORIAL Foundation has announced that the deadline for submission of entries to the 56th Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards is at 8:00 p.m. this night, **midnight of April 30.** A **grab** which has been awarded a prize in another contest before the deadline does not qualify for the awards.

Categories in the English and Filipino divisions are: Executive Fiction, Kabataan Essay, Short Story for Children, Essay, Poetry, One-Act Play, and Full-Length Play. The Short Story category is open in English, Filipino and the regional languages (Hiligaynon, Ilocano, Cebuano, etc.). The Teleplay and Screenplay categories are open only to the Filipino division.

Entries may be submitted in person or by courier to the Carlos Palanca Foundation, 6th floor, CPU Bldg. 108 C. Palanca Jr. St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. All entries submitted via e-mail should be sent not later than midnight of April 28. Entries should be in RTF (rich text format) or a word document file and should be sent as an attachment, together with the author's bio-data and an original copy of the notarized authorship/ownership.

Complete contest rules and official entry forms are available at the Carlos Palanca Foundation office or through e-mail at mpalanca@info.com.ph or palancawards@yahoo.com. For more information, applicants may call tel. 810-26-01, local 31.

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Holding firm announces scholarships

ELEVEN SCHOLARS HAILS UP THE 2006-07 batch of the Pilipinas National Scholarship Program, The Philippine Investment Management Inc. (Philnaid) has announced.

The scholarship covers tuition, board and lodging, and an allowance for qualified students pursuing engineering, accounting and education degrees at the University of the Philippines Diliman and Philippine Normal University, Philnaid partners in the program.

In addition, scholars will participate in out-of-classroom organizational activities such as study teams, leadership conferences, community programs and Big Brother/Big Sister programs.

"Our goal is to produce not just graduates but leaders," said Philnaid president and CEO Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

"We want our scholars to be not only economically productive citizens but socially engaged individuals who will contribute to the Philippines' economic and social development," Del Rosario added.

Under the Big Brother/Big Sister program, scholars will be mentored by Philnaid employees. The scholars in turn will be deployed to public schools to tutor potential scholars.

"Through this program, we will be actively involved in their [scholars'] formative and social development, and we are encourage them to start serving their country as early as now. We want to create a cascade effect," said Chito Salazar, Philnaid senior vice president who heads The Philnaid Education Network.

Philnaid is a holding company with interests in the property, education, energy and financial sectors. It recently acquired Araullo University in Nueva Ecija and Cagayan de Oro College in Cagayan de Oro City.

Mt. Bulusan erupts anew, but spews only steam, ash

By Bobby Q. Lobaton
INQ Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY—MT. BULUSAN (EDITOR) erupted again at 10:44 a.m. yesterday, spewing a column of ash that reached 1.4 km high into the sky and showering surrounding villages with ash.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said steam inside the volcano ejected the ash.

There were no reports of casualties or damage and no sign of lava from the volcano.

But alert level 1 and the 4-km danger zone remained in effect around the volcano as a precaution as local residents.

The 1,565-meter volcano straddles the towns of Juban, Barcelona, Bulusan and Irosin. It is located 63 km south of this city.

Phivolcs resident volcanologist Ed Laguro said the explosion showered ash on the barangays of Bitan-ag, Anog, Pinlig, Sapa and Bacolod in Juban and Tanompaya, Cogon and Bolos in Irosin town.

It was the second explosion by Mt. Bulusan this year. It first exploded on March 23.

Prior to March 23, Mt. Bulusan had its last activity in November 1999 up to January 1998, spewing ash that affected some 46,762 residents from the towns of Bulusan, Barcelona, Castigan, Juban, Irosin and Gubat.

As of press time, Laguro and his team were still at the site collecting ash samples to be sent to their laboratory for analysis.

"Technically it was an eruption—although it was an ash explosion since the steam-ash spewed were mixed by ash and not pyroclastic rocks," Laguro, Mayor Antonio Escudero Jr. and Barangay Bitan-ag Chairman Rolando Bolo said.

He also said that since the materials spewed were only ash and no pyroclastic, there was not much hazard or threat to life as persons but only an inconvenience to people.

He noted that Mt. Bulusan usually exhibited a "one-shot deal"—meaning, once it exploded, it took days before another activity occurred. "A subduta discover eureka," he said.

Laguro is also noted known on the volcano's slopes, as manifested by emitting smoke. (Turn to A10 Project)

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 30, 2000
3rd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter's sermon

Peter said to the people, "The God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over to death and denied before Pilate, when even Pilate had decided to release him." You rejected the Holy and Just One, and you insisted that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Master of life, but God raised him from the dead and we are witnesses to this.

"Yet I know that you acted out of ignorance, as did your leaders. God has fulfilled in this way what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

"Repent, then, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5

Jesus intercedes for us

My little children, I write to you that you may not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just One. He is the sacrificial victim for our sins and for the sins of the whole world.

How can we know that we know him? If we fulfill his commands. If you say "I know him," but do not fulfill his commands, you are a liar and the truth is not in you. But if you keep his word, God's love is made complete in you. This is how we know that we are in him.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

The risen Jesus reveals

Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

As they were recalling about this, Jesus himself stood in their midst. (And he said to them, "Peace to you.") In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost, but he said to them, "Why are you upset and why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves that a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have." On he said this, he showed his hands and feet.)

In their joy they didn't dare believe and were still astonished. So he said to them, "Have you anything to eat?" and they gave him a piece of broiled fish. He took it and ate it before them.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke to you when I was still with you. Everything must be done as in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he said to them, "You see what was written: the Messiah had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. Then repentance and forgiveness in his name would be proclaimed to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Now you shall be witnesses to this.

Commentary

Peter continues to preach about God's servant Jesus, the Author of life put to death and raised from the dead, and we are his witnesses. And Peter tells us the words of Jesus: Repent, your sins will be forgiven! This is the work of the Risen one for all of us: to know the Risen One means we, to remind we another as John does in his letter that if we know Jesus then we obey him and live in the truth. But if we do not keep his word, we are dead and do not know the love of God. It is in the Word of Scripture that we come to know and understand Jesus the Crucified and Risen One, to communicate and to commune with him and to suffer and be faithful, even unto death.

Gonzales doubts Oplan Manggagawa

By Cynthia D. Balana

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER NORBERTO Gonzales yesterday doubted the authenticity of the so-called "Oplan Manggagawa" plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo because it was too grandiose a scheme to be carried out successfully.

"When I first read it, it really was a good plan but how will it be implemented? That's the problem. And who will implement it?" Gonzales said.

"So, the way I look at it, it is not a genuine document ... It cannot be implemented."

Gonzales spoke on Vice President Noli de Castro's public affairs program on dzMM, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan."

Gonzales said he read the two-page document regarding the plot as early as last week but was not able to obtain a copy.

Under the Oplan, which was reported by the Inquirer the other day, political opposition groups and members of the religious sector will gather on Labor Day and then at some point, military and police rebels would attack target Cabinet and agencies.

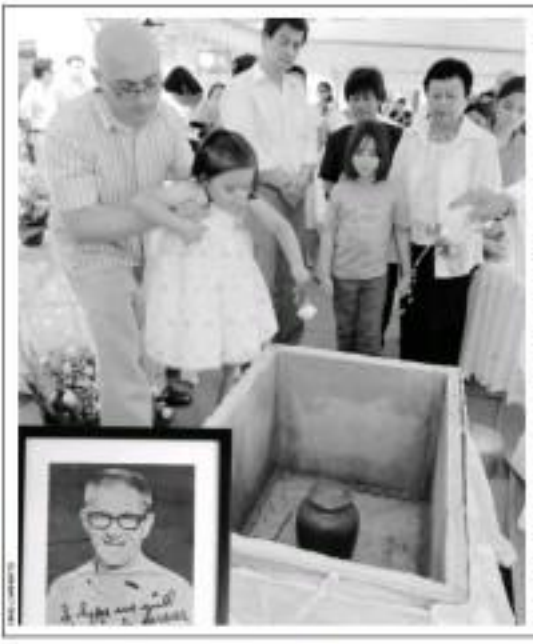
An assault would also be carried out on Malacañang and a new provisional installed before the end of the day.

The plot would also supposedly involve leftist elements.

Gonzales said that it would be impossible for plot organizers to execute such a massive move.

Gonzales said he was confident the armed forces chain of command would remain intact considering the professionalism of the military hierarchy.

Gonzales acknowledged that people power and the military were components of any scenario to topple a government, especially during significant events, such as Labor Day.



Applause, thanks for the man everyone called 'Uncle Bob'

From page A1

In the '50s, Stewart's RBS was at the forefront of media events, such as the reception of Mr. Hilton Hilton in 1951 and the presidential elections of 1953 which pitted the charismatic Ramon Magsaysay against the incumbent Elpidio Quirino.

Irreplaceable

It was on TV, however, that Stewart gained popularity as "everybody's uncle" on the daytime kiddie show, "Uncle Bob's Lucky 7 Club," says Channel 7.

"Uncle Bob is irreplaceable," Gonzalo Bufag, a coworker in the broadcast industry, says.

"Philippine broadcasting would not be complete without Uncle Bob," said Bufag, who had worked with Ramon Pamposa and Virgilio Garcillano in Philippine broadcasting.

When martial law disallowed foreigners from owning media firms, Stewart gave up RBS Channel 7 and ownership was transferred to Gualberto Duavit, Manuelo Jimenez and Felipe Gozon. RBS Channel 7 was also renamed GMA Channel 7.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS. Great granddaughter of GMA-7 founder Bob Stewart, Jo Irene Quintal carried by her father Kirby, Stewart's grandson, steps a rose on the urn containing the ashes of Stewart during interment rites on Saturday at the Lapida Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Globe's latest mobile tech: Talk, see and be seen

From page A1

Subscribers to Apple-owned Globe Telecom Inc. need not wonder, because starting today, they will have video-calling capabilities at their fingertips.

Globe executive chairman planning head Fortunato Pineda III said the company's 3G service would now be available to both prepaid and prepaid subscribers of the telecom firm, following an earlier launch to corporate customers.

"Similar to other markets, we launched the service to corporate users first. This doesn't mean that the service will only be for high-end consumers. We want to make it available to as big a market as possible," Pineda said in an interview yesterday.

To do that, he said the prices of Globe's 3G services, such as voice calls and data downloads, would cost the same as similar services currently available on the 2G platform.

OFWs who want to see their loved ones' faces when they call will only have to spend 40 US cents a minute—the same rate they are now paying for an ordinary mobile voice call.

Globe subscribers would already reach its video call, Jewel says in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg and Poland, Pineda said.

More countries would be added in the list in the coming days, he said.

AND INTRODUCING... With posts, Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala demonstrates a video call using 3rd Generation technology, one of the highlights of the 75th Advertising Congress in Cebu City last November. INQUIRER

First in Asia-Pacific

Pineda said Globe would aim for launching a mobile broadband service that corporate users could take advantage of.

Globe will offer to all of its subscribers ultra-high speed downlink packet access (HSDPA), a technology that delivers data speeds of between 1 megabit per second (Mbps) and 3 Mbps, faster than 3G.

Pineda said Globe was the first to commercially launch such a service in the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific region.

According to an update from the Global Mobile Suppliers Association (GSA), as of April 24, Globe was the only telecom firm in Asia-Pacific to make HSDPA available to its subscribers.

Globe launched its HSDPA offering last March 30 as part of the Globelicious-Globility product.

While the service targets mobility- and data-intensive corporate users, Pineda said it would also cater to individuals wanting speed and mobility at the same time, without having to be a large corporate user.

3G-HSDPA suite

Globe subscribers can also avail themselves of a 3G-HSDPA package, dubbed Globe Mobile Broadband 30 with HSDPA.

With this new offering, subscribers can avail of 3G and HSDPA services via a single account, eliminating the hassle of having to deal with different billing statements for different services.

"We're initially offering an HSDPA data card bundled with a SIM (subscriber identification module) card.

Your original SIM will be in your handset, but if you want mobile broadband, we'll give you a SIM card with a number dedicated to the data card," Pineda explained.

"That means you'll have separate phone numbers for 3G and HSDPA services. But you'll only get one billing statement for both services," he added.

Wide variety of content

For both services, he said Globe would be targeting mobile phone owners from all walks of life, not just corporate or high-end users.

He said the availability of local content should make 3G an appealing proposition as the mobile operator's subscribers.

"We have local music, local entertainment clips, traffic cams and all sorts of local content. This wide variety of content should appeal to a big number of our subscriber base," he said.

Eventually, he said Globe's 3G services would be made available to subscribers of TM, the Ayala telecom firm's mass-market brand.

While the current price structure of Globe's 3G services matches that of existing 2G offerings, he said the company would continue to explore "innovative plans later," while keeping the services affordable as its main goal.

"We just want to offer services that provide benefits for everyone. Video calling for OFWs, for example," he said. "There's a key part of what we want to bring to the market."

MA-INIT!
(It's summer again!)

Mainit sa! Panahon na naman ng electric fans at aircon.

Hina do we keep cool, the natural way? Answer: Install an insulation material that merely reflects heat and does not absorb it.

What material is this? Reflective aluminum foil made from Nasa Zealand.

Harmless ito sa tao, walang amoy at hindi ito kinakain ng insekto. Reflects heat. It is installed beneath the roof and above the attic.

But would not have an unbubbled ratio make the hot is a better insulation material? No, they won't. It is the foil's reflectivity that works off heat, not the material's thickness or air-bubbles.

Based on numerous tests conducted by international laboratories, aluminum foil reflects 96% of radiant heat and only 4% is retained as emissivity.

The 5% heat emissivity can be further reduced inside the house throughout the day and night.

How do we control that 5% emissivity building up in the roof? Design a roof system that makes use of a lot of air.

Air is a matter with one of the highest heat resistance known to man. Also, moving air can dissipate trapped heat most easily.

And where can you find lots of air in the roof system? It is in the attic. That space between the roof and the ceiling. That air is FREE!

So, why buy an expensive foil with blurb or air-bubbles with insignificant heat resistance for their thickness, when you have an attic full of air that is free?

How else would we design the roof system to maximize emissivity build-up in the attic? Install soffit vents that draw cool air in the attic and ridge and gable vents that draw hot air out from the attic. They work day and night and do not use electric power. And Multi-Line has all these materials as well.

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Inquirer still No. 1, Nielsen readership survey affirms

From page A1

that we have maintained our leadership position nationwide. We thank our valued readers for making this possible," PDI president and CEO Hermenegildo Pinto Reyes said.

"We continuously innovate and strive to satisfy our readers. Recently, we launched several innovations, such as the A plus section, Global Pinoy, Lifestyle Fashion, and highlighted premier stories on the front page, to cater to our readers' diverse interests," she said.

Top since 2001

The Inquirer has topped all five readership surveys that Nielsen Media Research has conducted nationwide since 2001.

In the five readership surveys, Manila Bulletin placed second and the Philippine Star third.

Nielsen Media Research conducted its survey on media habits in 2005, but plans to do two readership surveys starting this year.

The Media Index is a syndicated and independent study undertaken by the prestigious international research firm, whose millions include local publications, a television network, advertising agencies and big advertisers.

"Apart from readers having the Readers' Advocate to turn to for their comments and concerns, we have added a Subscription Hotline, 896-6000," said Connie Kalaw-yen, PDI circulation marketing and communications manager.

PDI priority: Readers

"We want to give [our readers] the opportunity to air their newspaper delivery concerns, suggestions, and subscription needs," Kalaw-yen said. "It is our aim to build an engaging relationship where communication is a two-way thing. Our priority is to make our readers happy."

Kalaw-yen said readers may also avail themselves of subscription packages for 99 up to 366 issues. Under each package, subscribers automatically receive for free every month any three or all of the following publications: Inquirer Golf Magazine, Inquirer Badminton, Jam Shop and Junior Inquirer.

Can't wait for the latest showbiz gossip?

"OUR MARRIAGE can be considered a culmination of what we've been fighting for: Mainstreaming. One aspect of that is to have families of our own," the Digan couple agree.

Like any . . .

From page A1

ple encourage to and in behalf of other PWDs.

"That's focus on our disability but on what we can do," said the groom, Dennis Digan, 42, vice president of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Philippines (CPAP).

"[Our marriage] can be considered a culmination of what we've been fighting for: Mainstreaming," he said in an interview hours before the 5 p.m. wedding.

One aspect of mainstreaming is enabling PWDs to "have families of their own without depending too much on friends and family," Dennis explained.

In a separate interview, the bride, 29-year-old Ludivina Grace Eduarte, said: "We will live on our own and try to live as normally as possible."

Cementing the bond

Dennis and Grace have actually been used to a civil ceremony.

But at yesterday's church wedding, Grace sounded like any other nervous bride gripped by last-minute worries. (Digressing as one point, she lamented: "Our cakes mean is still missing!")

Grace said their being both solons was one of the reasons they decided to get married before a judge in Manila on Aug. 24 last year.

In four days, Dennis was to fly to Denmark for nine weeks of training on how to run advocacy programs for PWDs. He was one of two Filipinos sponsored by a Danish organization.

"They just wanted to celebrate their bond, knowing each would be out of the other's sight for nine weeks, Grace said.

The two first met at a CPAP function and became sweethearts in 2001. He was the group's president, and she the public relations officer.

The way Grace recalled it, their courtship followed a familiar story: "We often ended up being seated next to each other" during meetings, and fellow CPAP officers often teased them as a destined pair.

And then, on Oct. 15, 2001, "he popped the question and my answer also came in a snap," she said.

'Slowness of movement'

Dennis' condition impaired both of his legs and his right arm; Grace's mainly affected her legs.

According to Dennis, cerebral palsy is basically a kind of paralysis resulting from a lack of oxygen in the parts of the brain responsible for motor functions. It often occurs before or shortly after birth.

The resulting "spasticity of the muscles" makes the performance of most daily activities very difficult, he said.

Plus, "slowness of movement" is the main cause of the hardships faced by those afflicted—or other PWDs, for that matter—in their struggle to go mainstream by attaining higher education, finding jobs, or simply taking part in normal social functions.

For example, 15 of the 30 members of the CPAP board of directors can be considered employable, "but only five of them have jobs right now," Dennis said.

Of the organization's membership of around 200 (covering Metro Manila and chapters in Davao, Iloilo and Pangasinan), he would consider around 50 to be fit for employment befitting their education, but only about 1 percent have jobs.

Both Dennis and Grace are graduates of the University of the Visayas. Dennis works for Delivering Hope for Speech by Inc., of which he is the executive director.

The nongovernment organization basically engages in avant-rehabilitation therapy for persons with cerebral palsy and stroke victims.

Finding romance

But if PWDs need all the support they can get from Dennis' NGO and the like, they don't need help when it comes to finding romance, Grace seemed to suggest.

"We are opposites in many things," the psychology graduate of Trinity College said in farewell and her eyes. "We married out of friends until I feel[ings] developed into a beautiful relationship."

Not all their differences in taste and the usual lovers' quarrels they have had, "he has brought out the best in me," she said, chiding, "He knows how to handle me when I'm down and whenever I have my moping moments."

Grace described Dennis as a lover of few words who conveyed his sweetest nothings in those moments when they were alone together.

He lived up to that image during the interview.

"She's very pretty, very sweet and very understanding," Dennis said of his bride. "We've known each other well, we've accepted our weaknesses."

Like any average couple, he said, they supported or have the early years of marriage covering with that term financially.

Thankfully, both of them are employed (Dennis at his NGO), and she at another nonprofit organization, the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc., where she is part of the medical staff.

Unconditional love

At the wedding ceremony, a number of the guests—about 15 PWDs among them—were teary-eyed when Grace walked down the aisle.

The officiating priest, Rev. Fred Mitra, said that while many people might doubt the wisdom of the couple in marrying, in the eyes of God they were "more whole" than most married people.

He likened their decision to live as husband and wife, despite the challenges posed by their condition, to "the love that God gives us unconditionally."

As far as she knew, said Jean Gonzales, one of the godparents and current vice president of the Philippine Association of Citizens with Developmental and Learning Disabilities, the Digans are the first PWD couple in the country.

The wedding reception was held at the residence of another of the godparents on Kamias Street near the church, according to the bride's aunt, Leonora Gonzales. With a report from Aris Ilagan

THE WALKERS (clockwise, on wheels) are parked while the bride and groom take their vows: In sickness and in health, for richer, for worse, till death do they part.

A KISS IS STILL A KISS. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Digan steal a kiss inside the bridal car after their wedding at the Lourdes Church in Quezon City.

To the wonders of Internet, add fundraiser for sick kids

From page A1

ailment and the required surgery that would cost P150,000.

Local eBay

Most of the media outfits based in Baguio are part of a network that Dacanay taps whenever he embarks on a benefit activity, Mayeras said.

But it was a woman in the United States who suggested pooling together a local version of the online auction site, eBay, to finance Jenny's surgery, he said.

Mayeras said he immediately chat-roomed only an "Princess Leo," the woman proposed that Mayeras link up with another Baguio netizen, www.baguio.multiply.com, to host the eBay-styled project she called "e-swapwagan."

(Swapwag is the local name for an ox-driven, two-wheeled contraption imported from Hong Kong and sold cheap on the sidewalks or in local bargain houses.)

Mayeras said the e-swapwagan began immediately on March 8, a day after Princess Leo proposed it. The auction ended on April 20 and generated nearly half of what they had intended to raise for Jenny.

Mayeras said the response to e-swapwagan had enlightened him and his colleagues on the possibilities of online charity work.

He said the benefit concerts they would normally stage in the city or in the towns of Benguet could be broadcast online to tap into Filipino communities abroad.

They could even sell their locally produced compact discs online for charity, he said.

Free phone cards

But actually Mayeras said, the first online charity project was a fundraising experience.

The first item they put up for bidding was a Smart Buddy prepaid phone card worth P500 that sold for the same amount. It ended up getting used hand-to-hand, raising P500.

Princess Leo constantly reminded online bidders that the e-swapwagan items were being sold for charity, and urged them to bid higher than their actual value.

Among the items sold at auction were Globe prepaid phone cards, and gift certificates donated by Jollibee, 168 malls, National Bookstore and Mercury Drug.

Some of the stuff was donated from abroad, including gift cards worth $100 (P5,150) and $50 (P2,500) from Macy's department store in New York City, a Nike Mart gift card worth $25 (P1,284.50) and a Coach leather products gift card worth $100 (P5,150).

Mayeras said he and his colleagues opted to be innovative.

Promising that all the proceeds would go to Jenny's benefit, he solicited his P10,000 computer and, later, advertising space in his Sibib newspaper.

When an Internet company took up Mayeras's offer, Princess Leo offered 300,000 Pinkfield Bassets and Danteggo Time Share points, which would allow the winning bidder to use a room in any of those US resorts for a period of time.

Show-stealers

But from accounts, Ignorin and Jimili stole the show.

Ignorin hocked online bidder "sinobi" here increasing his bid, Mayeras said. When sinobi did not show up for their date, Ignorin teased him again online.

It was Jimili who introduced the online service concept, Mayeras said.

She wrote those bidding for her one-day maid services that she would "do anything" she would be asked to do, "as long as there would be no 'moral' and 'intellectual' concerns or issues involved."

"Basically I can do things like . . . household chores, babysitting, gardening [or washing cables]," she wrote.

She said that she would buy her load bills as well as her transportation expenses, but only within Baguio or La Trinidad to Benguet, and that she would be available between March 27 and April 5.

"You can choose any day but I'll need to be notified at least three days in advance," she wrote.

But for all that, Jimili was never nominated to do household chores, "because she's a girl."

The winning bidder decided to let her help with a project to publish an anti-anti-Sinibot dictionary instead," Mayeras said.

The proceeds will be sent to the hospital that will handle Jenny's surgery, he said.

THE PESO EXCHANGE RATE:
Why Are We So Poor?

Army officers not amused by Sgt. Pacman's KO look

From page A1

raised criticism among officers.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officers said they were irked by the disrespect's long hair and unshaven appearance when he received his sergeant rank as a member of the Army reserve force.

Dream came true

Pacquiao got on a soldier's camouflage combat uniform and headband to be thanked by Army officials for fulfilling his original dream of becoming a soldier.

But some officers reacted adversely when they saw the newspaper photographs and television video footage of a grinning Pacquiao surrounded by his fans in the Army.

They complained that Pacquiao, who sported long hair, sideburns, a moustache and a goatee, did not bother to observe the military regulation haircut.

Soldiers are required to keep their hair short, neat and well-groomed. Their faces should be clean-shaven.

Even GMA-7's news anchor Mike Enriquez, while reading the report and upon seeing the footage of Pacquiao in a soldier's uniform, blurted out: "May bulilat pa! (He's got a beard!)"

"The picture of Sgt. Manny 'Pacman' Pacquiao on (the front page) of the business is disgusting. An Army soldier with a mustache and a goatee, long hair and sideburns. A serving Army model soldier," one senior officer said in a text message to reporters.

The complaining officer said Pacquiao should have gotten a flattop and a haircut close to ears before going to receive a military award.

But Col. Isabelo Barrientos III, commander of the National Capital Region Command Community Defense Group (NCR-CDG), said reservist officers like Pacquiao need not comply with military haircut regulations.

Barrientos explained that reservists rank as Pacquiao as a member of the Army's reservist force. Army vice commander, Maj. Gen. Ricardo Bellarmo, was also around to welcome Pacquiao.

Can't wait
to see their latest video?

DOLE to labor: Avoid violence, enjoy

By Jovenia Aning

LABOR SECRETARY Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday called on militant groups planning to hold protests on Labor Day to peacefully conduct and uphold rallies.

Saying freedom of assembly was a constitutionally guaranteed right, Sto. Tomas stressed that participatory also

The People Still Behind Bars Shall!

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Interested parties may contact: Mr. Genry Canilo at Tel No.: (02) 725-7403 Fax: (02) 722-9103 Mobile: 09282473897 Email: platforest@gmail.com

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LABOR INTENSIVE. Militant groups like the Bayang Mayo Uno prepare their banners calling for a wage increase, among other demands, on Labor Day tomorrow. INQ file

No stopping GMA's Cavite heckler

By Dolfin T. Mufioz Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
Aquilino Z. Zosto and Joshua Molave
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The female student leader from this Cavite State University who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during graduation ceremonies last week isn't done yet.

Mrs. Theresa Pangilinan will be among the militants—including workers, farmers and students—who are taking part in a caravan from Southern Tagalog to Metro Manila to link up with other protesters set to denounce the government's Labor Day protests in the capital.

"Ms. Theresa will lead the student bloc of the marchers from the Southern Tagalog region," Bayan caucus coordinator Ian Lapida said in a phone interview before the caravan started. "Evidence gathered before will be Arroyo's enemy. But this time, she will join fellow protesters from different sectors of society."

Pangilinan created a security scare during the graduation rites in Cavite last week when she shouted "Patalsikin si (Ehud) Garci" while the President was speaking.

Don't block entry to Manila

Guillermo Ilustrisimo, chair of Kilusang Mayo Uno (Labor Day Movement) in Timog Katagalugan, warned the police and the military not to block the entry to Manila of the caravan composed of some 5,000 people.

"We have managed to break through their roadblocks during the first of the CPR (calibrated preemptive response). We will not be stopped," he insisted, referring to Malacañang's policy against demonstrations such as the Edsa People Power I (bloodless).

The Cavite caravan, which also includes rallyists from Quezon, Batangas, Laguna and Mindoro, will ride on 18 Pantalapat and walk the rest of the way to the Balintawak Church in Bacoor, where they will spend the night with a protest vigil.

Target is Mendiola

The marchers from Bicol province will leave on the morning to join the Cavite protesters.

BOLD MODEL FOR THE YOUTH. Cavite State University graduate who heckled President Arroyo at the commencement exercises last week, Theresa Pangilinan, the Cavite State University graduate who heckled President Arroyo as she delivered the commencement address last week, Pangilinan was hailed during a protest conference on Saturday. INQ file

Today the group will hold rallies at the Rizal Park and the office of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

It will spend the night on the UP Diliman campus in Quezon City and join other protesters from Luzon on Monday for a rally at the historic Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang.

"Militant groups from the region will time and again call for the ouster of Arroyo and her economic and social reforms to ease the deepening poverty and destitution in the countryside," Ilustrisimo said.

Major cities

In the South, Lizzah Benjamin, deputy secretary general of the Bayan Muna party-list group, said they planned the May 1 protests in Mindanao to be attended by at least 10,000 protesters.

"We will stage protests in major cities of Mindanao... in Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Diosdado Macapagal," Benjamin said in Cotabato City.

Unlike in Metro Manila, where protests sometimes turn violent, the Mindanao rallies are expected to be peaceful.

Wage demands

In General Santos City, Bill Andres, spokesperson of Bayan, said the P125 increase in the daily minimum wage remained the main issue for workers.

He said workers in General Santos were still being paid P200 per day despite the successive increase in the prices of basic commodities such as the cost of transportation.

Andres said they would also protest the government's continuing failure to address the growing unemployment problem.

He said there were about 4 million jobless Filipinos but Malacañang was focusing on moves to perpetuate Ms Arroyo in power.

"Ours Cha-cha (Charter change) movement, too, has plunged Davao into the abyss of economic misery," he said.

Palace sets 1017 powers

From page A1

peers in the capital.

Rallies by groups and they were organizing up to 60,000 protesters in various parts of Mindanao. (See related stories on this page.)

"We will only take this course (counter-preemptive measures) if the rallies turn out to be a cover for an armed component to topple this administration," Defensor said.

Police and Mr. Arroyo's administration MAY to break up protest rallies, arrest demonstrators, and the offices of newspapers friendly with rebels but not intimidate media.

Defensor's warning followed reports of a new plot supposedly hatched by the opposition and the Left—called "Oplan Mayuguno"—to forcibly put Mr. Arroyo from Malacañang.

Malacañang scheme

The Oplan purportedly calls for members or followers of opposition leaders and some religious groups, armed attacks by rebel soldiers and police in camps to create civil disorder, an assault on Malacañang and the proclamation of a new president by 5 p.m. tomorrow.

Opposition lawmakers and military groups denied any hand in the purported Oplan and said it was a Malacañang-inspired scheme to link them to a power grab and justify crackdowns on Labor Day protesters and critics of Mr. Arroyo.

Defensor said that PP 1017 enabled Mr. Arroyo to quash a plot by military schemers and leftist rebels to oust her and that, just as in February, she would use her powers judiciously.

"There were no unwarranted arrests made under PP 1017. The media might have been a little offended by it. Even those was really an takeover of any print or broadcast unit. It's a lot cry from martial law," said Defensor.

AFP downplays Oplan

He stressed that Ms Arroyo would not proclaim an emergency "if the rallies are just political assemblies or protest actions."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the police and military were on top of the situation. But he said the government "will not shrink in duty of implementing the law to protect the ordinary working man and to preserve order in our streets."

Protesters should stay within the law and permit their own ranks, Bunye said.

While police in the capital would be on red alert, the military downplaying Oplan Mayuguno, was still maintaining a lower level blue alert.

"We will go on full alert tomorrow and I appeal to only organized and to maintain the line," said the national capital police chief, Director Hilel Querol.

Fifteen troops are on highest alert...all forces and deputies are mounted and all are required to report to their units.

Military information chief Col. Bonna Ilustrisimo said that, so far, there were no rallies to put soldiers on red alert.

Palace hand seen

"We have not monitored violent activities that are under an announcement day," said Ilustrisimo.

"Walang sasali na (No one, no more)," he said when asked if the military was aware of such a plan.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon separately doubted if the supposed plot.

Drilon said Pimentel said it was an attempt to justify the imposition of Proclamation 1017.

"Moreover, [Neal] Gonzales issued orders about the extended 1017 so this is part of the intimidation," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Laying the groundwork

"We condemn such a brazen attempt to continue to lay the basis for moment that they intend to undertake," he said.

Pimentel added: "The administration is trying to lay the basis for the forcible breaking up of peaceful rallies for Labor Day and project it as a power grab with senators as masterminds ... Only Ilets can make that up."

"Thus, are the same overworking this. That's too good to be true," Estrada said...adding the Oplan was a "pretext" being waged by Malacañang to frighten its critics.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, one of the thirteen 5 groups of congressmen under House jurisdiction currently and having rebellion charges, said that Malacañang and the police should not push the panic button.

"Instead, they should show respect for the right of the Filipino working class to demonstrate on Labor Day and reaffirm their legitimate grievances which are numerous," he said.

Crisis of legitimacy

But Ocampo said workers had "every right to call for the resignation" because of the unresolved political and economic crises in the country.

"Besides her refusal to resolve the crisis of legitimacy besetting her government, she has repeatedly been responsible for major hike and denied to institute price controls on basic goods and services to ease their burden of economic survival," he said.

Assistant party-list Sen. Nahuel Montano accused the administration of "manufacturing a scenario to justify the military action on the Batasang Pambansa complex and the Senate premises [and] execute its hellish objective of forcibly booting us out of Congress."

Sleepless in the Palace

"In ignorance of the President's inspiration," "Malacañang hatched a Labor Day propaganda campaign," and "Palace-connected psychological warfare" were phrases used by the Bayang Mayo Uno, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and other groups in describing the alleged Oplan.

"The administration officials must not blame workers if they're having sleepless nights," BMP chair Elmer Labog said. With reports from Ariel Labog-Javellana, Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning

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OPINION

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Brazen

HAS THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government lost completely its sense of right and wrong? Only last January, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio defied senators in a legislative hearing by refusing to answer a simple question: Does President Macapagal-Arroyo know of the agency's negotiations on a compromise agreement regarding the contrac levy funds with Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco? Since then, the PCGG has apparently become more brazen. Today, it's PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede who is going around town proudly trumpeting his "exploratory" talks with the Marcoses for a 70-30 sharing of their ill-gotten wealth.

EDITORIALS

Aside from millions of pesos he says the government can save from withdrawing the cases filed in court against the Marcoses, Abcede is trying to justify this latest PCGG proposal with health-ala flaks. He has been quoting Imelda Marcos as saying that "the Marcos assets are enough to pay our national debt, plus more." That means about P4 trillion flowing back into government coffers—if one can take Imelda at her word.

To say that's a staggering amount is to state the obvious—and to miss the key significance of her fantastic claim. For what it really amounts to is an admission of plunder of unimaginable proportions. There is simply no other way the Marcoses could have come by such fabulous wealth.

Is the sheer magnitude of the scam the government supposedly stands to recover mean enough to forgive and forget their crime? It is for Abcede. "I don't care about the moral issues involved," he flatly declares. "Part of our mandate is the recovery of the Marcos wealth. And the negotiations are within our mandate."

To him, it doesn't matter either that the Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that the PCGG has no mandate to grant criminal and civil immunity or no exemptions to the blatancy, and that such a grant would be a "direct encroachment on judicial powers, particularly with regard to criminal jurisdiction."

In that same ruling, the Court also warned that a compromise agreement on ill-gotten wealth cases would be tantamount to giving "a license to perpetrate fraud against the government without any liability" and would set "a dangerous precedent for public accountability."

Celebrating corruption

DANILO RAMOS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE Bilisang Maghahalaki ng Pilipinas, has assailed the PCGG's "new and pragmatic" catch in recovering ill-gotten wealth. "The primary issue here is justice and not only actual recovery of the ill-gotten wealth," he pointed out.

But not for today's PCGG. From Abcede's pronouncements, the quest for ill-gotten wealth must be guided solely by the dictates of pragmatism, and any other consideration is irrelevant. It must be practicality over principle. Money over morality.

With this new guidepost, plunderers have all the reasons to rejoice. So what is there for them to fear now? Lifestyle checks? They can always buy their way out of trouble if the price is right.

In fact, what the government can do for the Marcoses, it might as well do for the Estradas. If the government can't recover all of the Estradas' alleged ill-gotten wealth, it might as well settle with them under a 70-30 sharing scheme. That means abandoning the plunder cases against them, with the immediate effect of saving a couple of million pesos or whatever it would cost the government to pursue the case being heard by the Sandiganbayan.

Then the government should also drop the cases against other government officials, high and low, found to have amassed millions in unexplained wealth. That's the fair thing to do if the most corrupt leaders the country has known, and their families and cronies, will be allowed to get unpunished and to enjoy their loot.

If what Abcede is proposing becomes policy it will send the message to potential grafters that if they wish to steal from the national treasury, they should steal big-time. And the bigger the loot, the better the chance that they will get to enjoy it. Because the more they can offer to return, the easier it is for the government to forgive and forget that the law has been violated. All that matters is money, money and more money.

Plunder has become a crime punishable with a compromise. Justice no longer matters. The PCGG is setting the stage for the celebration of corruption.

'Utang na loob'

SEPARATE OPINION

Joaquin A. Cruz

THE HOUSE BALKED NOW THEN TO MAKING valid or void but how the Supreme Court would decide. Its delay in doing so, whether for or against the presidential order, made the waiting more apprehensive.

The reason for this anxiety was the official provenance of the high tribunal as non-consensual. Except for two of its members, all the existing justices have been appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The 13 others include the Chief Justice himself who, while initially chosen by a previous president, owes his present position to the author of EO 464.

Utang na loob, or gratitude, is a traditional virtue of our people. It is an honorable motivation in ordinary social and other relations, including business, professional and political ties. All other things being equal, its influence will inexorably tip the balance in favor of the person to whom it is honestly owed. Such person will naturally expect reciprocal gratitudeness for his or her previous good will.

The positive force, of course, that the nullification of EO 464 would enhance is President Arroyo, no matter how heavily she might appear to accept the humiliation. Not particularly known for her forgiving nature, GMA might conceivably change her former unsubtlety (or parsimony) with indifference if not actual hostility. Where were statesmanship then would have to respect if they should be so rash as to alienate her.

I mentioned these possibilities several times in this column to express my sensitive awareness of the impartiality of the present Supreme Court. I said that during my time, the members of the High tribunal, who were all appointed by President Corazon Aquino, did not hesitate to rule against her in several cases involving countless financial issues. I hoped that the present justices would also render their rulings objectively, independently of their personal feelings as we did.

Thankfully I find that they have done exactly that. The morning their decision was announced, I went to the Supreme Court to get a copy of it. It was superbly written by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales and concurred in by all the other magistrates except Justice Reynato S. Puno, who was in official leave. Even Justice Prudencio J. Jardeleza Jr., who had just joined the Court, signed with the other members to make their sentiment unanimous.

The Court en banc held that the challenged order impinged on the inherent power of inquiry now repeatedly encapsulated in Congress as one of its commissions when exercised in aid of legislation, subject to the specified limitations. The decision ruled, although it did not directly say so, that in preventing her subordinates from appearing in any legislative investigation without her consent, President Arroyo violated sec. 18, Sec. 21 of the Constitution.

The decision adequately discussed the concept of executive privilege as an exemption from the power of legislative inquiry. The basis for the exception, it said, was the reasons against the investigation—viz., crucial military or diplomatic objectives, the secrets of the information sought, and confidential relations. Heretofore—to be clearly established and not merely assumed or implied. After examining applicable jurisprudence here and in the United States, the Court held that no such reasons could exist on EO 464.

Solving the cases cited by Justice Morales was limited issues: Richard M. Nixon, 418 U.S. 683, where the respondent invoked executive privilege in refusing to surrender certain tapes and documents connected with the Watergate scandal. The US Supreme Court rejected his defense. The court Supreme Court also dismissed Clinton's claim of executive privilege in the famous case. Moreover, it did this case in about nearly and with careful prosecutorness of Mr. Arroyo, that her statement are now famously crowing her victory!

The Court dismissed other reasons for annulling the challenged order, among them the people's right to information on the matters being investigated by Congress and the justifiableness of the order for lack of its publication as required by due process. But to open the bridegapled President from further discussion, it held that the appearances of executive officials at the question hour could not be compelled under Sec. 21 of the same Article.

Whether or not the unanimous congratulation for its excellent craftsmanship. With exceptional care, she rebuked the President of the Philippines without actually doing so, probably because of her exalted rank or, as has likely of saying no look. It was a tour de force that practically absolved the acknowledged heroine-heroine. Where intended, it would not result doubting her. The Senate sponsored her did not explode.

For being excessively deferential to his views, the Supreme Court withheld the judicial indignation it should have exhibited, as the consciousness of this government, against the serious constitutional offense instead of serving as a stern warning against further unconstitutional audacities, the protests merely made the timid reaction of a step on the wrist. It was like spanking a pampered child with a lick dipper.

'I' witness

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, STD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TEACHER who asked a boy what would happen if she cut off one of his ears.

"My hearing will be affected," was the boy's response.

"What if I cut off both of your ears?" the teacher pushed on.

"My voice will be affected, ma'am," he replied. "Why?"

"Because my eyeglasses would fall," the boy explained.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk 24, 35-48), the Risen Lord again helps the disciples to hear, see and understand the resurrection and the subsequent mission that goes with it. The Lord tries to make them go beyond their initial doubts, fears, amazement and joy and slowly leads them toward the mission outside Jerusalem.

And as it can happen that if we are glued to our personal quests and questionings, we may never move on toward the big world out there—a world that awaits our love, service, friendship and sharing.

* * *

"You are witnesses of these things" (Isa 1) ever assured to you that by virtue of your Christian baptism, you are supposed to be witnesses of the good news? We all are supposed to be bearers and promoters of Christian values.

* * *

Nowadays, we hear of personalities who are product endorsers. I understand that they get paid a lot for endorsing this or that particular brand. Even Christian is and should be an endorser of Christ. What are you endorsing in your life? Aside from yourself, whom are you endorsing and promoting in your life?

* * *

Sorry. There are no material perks when you become an endorser of Christ. There are no ad-

ent fees or endorsement fees involved. If you happen to have such perks, maybe you are not endorsing him fully! But once being new, there is something and peace—a kind of peace which the world cannot give or take away. Then who truly endorse Christ may often have empty hands, but they have fully loaded hearts, laden with peace and love. And the reasons are really "out of this world!"

* * *

The best cure for the "I" disease is to remove one's focus from the self and shift it instead on others, especially the suffering and less fortunate. Recently, I was at the Philippine Children's Hospital for a Mass when I experienced an unforgettable moment. I was asked to bless the little children in the ICU.

It is heartbreaking to see people suffer, but doubly heartbreaking to see little children suffer. God must feel sad when He sees His children suffer, and doubly sad when He sees the little children and the little ones in our society suffer.

* * *

Archbishop Oscar Cruz mentioned in his homily, during Bishop Mario Peralta's installation as coadjutor of the diocese of Mamburao last April 18, the threefold task of the bishops, the clergy and the laity: to teach, to sanctify and to lead salvation as prophets. The good archbishop noted that the hardest thing to do is the third task where, admittedly, we have often failed. An example, it is not easy to stand up for Christ on the socio-economic-political

issues confronting us today. Being a prophet and being persecuted for being one are an integral part of our being witnesses in the Word in the world. Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith? If not, maybe because you are more focused on the profits and not on being a prophet.

* * *

Our mere day and it's May the month of flowers, the month of Mary. Once again, as we go through the many problems and issues that confront us as a people and as a nation, let us hold on to our mother who is deeply aware of the sufferings of her children. Soon, the good will be rewarded, and the evildoers will be cast down. Lying and falsehood are not forever. Righteousness, truth and justice will prevail in our beloved land. Let's pray with Fr. Ed Angeles in our "Walk with God" in Manaoag on Saturday, May 6, starting at 6 a.m. from Imbarcita church.

* * *

Did you know that St. Gabriel Mcverse, canonized in 1990 by Pope John Paul II, was ordained in the Philippines and spent 13 years of mission work here? On the occasion of his 100th death anniversary and the 400th anniversary of the Augustinian Recollects in the Philippines, Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, OAR, together with co-workers Sonia Roca, Ana Grilon, Bessy Ramos and others, is organizing a caravan that will start in Intramuros on May 1 and in Mariveles on May 3 and 4.

* * *

Did you read how one newspaper highlighted the issue of death penalty? "Killed or Not?" As we go through the many struggles and tasks in this life, let us not forget some humor.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, heal me of my "I" disease, so that I can be an "I" witness to your love and peace. Amen.

Revolt of the retired generals

LAST WEEK, SIX RETIRED SENIOR GENERALS of the US armed forces publicly censured Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and called for his removal. Retired Army officers had for many defense secretaries been subjected to such scathing public rebuke from former military leaders. According to the April 24 issue of Time magazine, "the retired generals are not calling on their (not-one-yet) policy boss to resign. They are the chorus and not an opening act . . . each has his own credence that the retirees are speaking for other generals on active duty."

Rumsfeld's chief accusation:

Gen. Anthony Zinni, former commander of the US Central Command which has overall responsibility for the conduct of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan—"Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is not competent to lead our armed forces; . . . he has shown himself to be impetuous, unprepared, arrogant, and abusive, who not only surrounds himself with sycophants, but also abuses those who serve him."

Maj. Gen. John Riggs—"Rumsfeld and his advisers grossly underestimated the number of soldiers needed for the initial phase. They underestimated the military talents when it interfered with agenda. I think there's a mistake and there's who I think he should resign."

Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold, former Director of Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff—"The misadventure of our forces in this fight was based with a confidence and swagger that are the up and coming of those who led us into this war—a confidence that was not—by the results . . . a fine domestically focused plan was executed for an international war that was not fought for the reasons, at friends, became a secondary effort."

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

Ironically, the one officer who resisted Secretary Rumsfeld early in the day that occupying Iraq would require several hundred thousand troops was not among those calling for his resignation.

In June 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, of Wesa Puna (since 2001, the Aiea) HS army chief of staff. He became the first military officer of Japanese ancestry to hold the position, and the highest ranking Asian American soldier in US military history. Incidentally, he is the son of Hilo, Hawaii, and was reared by relatives on Kilauea sugar cane plantation, especially Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz, vice president of the World Bank.

Sometime in 2000, Shinseki testified in Congress that a large number of troops would be required for Iraq. This was based on his experience in charge of peacekeeping operations in Bosnia. He has remained—which earned a conflict with the civilian brass that elevated him to the position of army chief of staff—a loyal soldier who has refused to engage in public debates, and so has often appeared in an environment of silence and obedience. But he never took the initiative to take the lead in any critical review of government policies that affect the men in uniform.

Rumsfeld and Bush may shrug off the revolt of the retired generals, but there is no doubt that it has created considerable discomfort in the Pentagon and the White House.

Tomorrow to be Wednesday anniversary of Alex Melchor, Jr. To commemorate the event, family and friends will gather for Mass at noon to the Iloilo Family Church in Pu'u Mali Condominium. Lunch follows at Club Filipino.

Celebrating fandom

IT'S HIGH CALLED THE "HAPPIEST MOVIE" OF this summer season, and indeed Stephen Frears' new chess and loudly inclusive new home-video "D Lucky Ones" is living classic.

Much of the charm of the laughter and pathos, as well as the charm and overall lightness of feeling of the movie, goes to the timidity of Rebecca and Eugene Jennings. Playing a pair of the least talkative-to-them of Tilden Simms, by Rachel Weisz and Dermot Mulroney, who had big billing but friends who "pledge" their children to each other, the considerable time it up during lunch and on the film's blooming part of racist storyfolding and social satire.

Frears' film is a perfect little vehicle comic for those selves as "supporting" characters, committed to romantic bonds or as "best friends" or bebeguarded investors. Most TV viewers, though, will remember them as the "Lucky Ones" who had big lucky breaks or another, a role that every superstar in these parts needs to nail, it seems, before they can join the comic society

Please send feedback to
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Editor Joan K. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

Where the jobs are

IN JANUARY, 2.8 MILLION FILIPINOS WERE JOBLESS, 6.9 MILLION were seeking additional jobs and 1.1 million had stopped looking for work apparently because they could not find any, according to data from the National Statistics Office.

That's a total of 10.8 million people out of the 36-million workforce who need jobs.

The numbers show that the country is facing an employment crisis, a situation not lost on the tens of thousands of Filipinos leaving for work abroad every year.

But the Department of Labor and Employment does not call it a crisis, saying that jobs are aplenty. The unemployment problem is due to a mismatch between the skills for available jobs and the skills of those seeking work, according to the labor department.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila has another explanation for the unemployment problem. "We have plenty of jobs available in the country today, but the problem is some Filipinos are just choosy," he said.

It's a statement that millions of jobless workers will find outrageous.

If jobs are available in the country, Filipinos will not leave for work overseas despite the social costs that go with earning a living far from home.

Seven sectors could create 4 million opportunities

By Joy T. Tabao

THE MEDIUM TERM PHILIPPINE Development Plan 2005-2010 is underscoring the importance of creating decent employment opportunities in labor-top provinces. To realize this goal, government officials are geared toward increasing investor confidence to key employment generators.

During the 2006 National Manpower Summit on March 2, nine sectors were identified that would require a great number of workers equipped with specific knowledge and skills. These are:

1. Cybertechnics
2. Agribusiness
3. Services
4. Hotel and restaurant
5. Medical tourism
6. Health services
7. Mining
8. Creative industries and
9. Overseas employment

The services key information and communication technology, hotel and restaurant, call center/business outsourcing, and seafood (377,736 and 911,994 job opportunities) were expected to be generated in 2005 and 2010, respectively. Between 2006 and 2010, a total of 4 million jobs are expected to be created in the key sectors (see Table 1).

Customer care

Some jobs under each sector would pose fewer than the others. In the next few years, few unforeseen, untold sciences for nearly 60 percent of the total number of projected jobs.

These are customer care (733,000) and tech office processing (592,100), agriculture (335,207), and tying a profile from (1,482,200), and food and beverage (214,041).

Ensuring that these job opportunities are filled by its qualified workforce—from desk to meet standards set by the industry—is a challenge to both government and the private sector.

While these sectors offer a great number of employment opportunities for job seekers, some of these sectors are already experiencing difficulties in getting the right workers.

Skills shortage

While shortages of skills are said to be prevented in some occupational industries in the country, a oversupply of other skills has likewise observed.

For example, employment opportunities for cybertechnics are estimated at 1,380,892 compared with the projected number of 1,791,489 professionals for 2006-2010.

Nevertheless, graduates of the course cybertechnics disciplines are projected to reach 1,302,600 from 2000 to 2010.

In the hotel and restaurant sector, jobs would grow by 400,000 but there would only be 95,264 graduates of this discipline during the same period.

The "experts gap, trend index" phenomenon has significantly affected the operations of the labor market, including several of the nine sectors. As a result of this demand-and-supply landmark, a great number of job opportunities may not be filled up.

This dire situation might be further aggravated by changes in manpower requirement because more rapid pace the fast-changing demand for skills in the global labor market in which the Philippines is a major supplier.

The National Manpower Summit tackled ways of addressing structural unemployment.

Geographic mismatch

Structural unemployment basically results from a mismatch between the skills by available jobs and the skills possessed by the labor force. Usually, this problem happens because mismatch between location of job openings and job seekers (McConnell et al., 2006).

Aside from structural, cyclical ways were laid down to create ripples of doubts and strategic reports.

Arturo Tolentino, secretary labor secretary, for his part, said the policy guidelines on action agenda that was formulated to ensure that employment generation and competitiveness that are so demand are identified in the short- and medium-term; (2) linkages between an industry and schools and training institutions are at work; and (3) the types of workers needed by emerging industries in the country and the rest of the world are presented.

The stakeholders should be appreciate in finding ways to address the problems and play in the matching of the labor demand and supply. For to join, the government should to various opportunities in industries that are experiencing shortages—especially those caused by mismatches—that is being experienced by some sectors.

Prior notice

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration plans to set schools to the opportunities in shortages of skilled workers and ability, according to labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

In local industries with a shortage of skilled workers, it is already given notice that has been prepared for those who desire to take up jobs abroad. Filters and current workers are subject to this rule effective April 1.

On the supply side, the labor secretary proposed the creation of opportunities adjustment boards in schools to help students choose which college course would bring them employment after graduation.

Retraining of instructors, revision of curricula and instructors may also be pursued to reduce the high number of unemployable graduates. Bridging courses and additional training may be provided to those who had graduated less-treasured unemployable.

Government scholarships and study grants may also be offered to students pursuing courses in vital industries.

Talbo is the officer in charge of the Information and Publication Service of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Projected number of new jobs by sector

Sector	2005	2001	2006-2010
1. Agribusiness	329,689	322,207	2,844,365
2. Cybertechnics	1,48,380	284,148	1,380,800
3. Hotels & Restaurants	95,381	88,028	400,000
4. Medical Tourism	25,240	25,240	125,450
5. Health Services	8,880	8,455	58,000
6. Mining	6,672	7,298	30,382
7. Aviation	3,730	4,486	27,881
TOTAL	577,730	602,084	4,087,447

Fairs no match to employment shortage

By Clarence Pascual

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment (DOLE) is now trying to resolve the mismatch between the supply and demand for skilled workers in the country.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that there were thousands of qualified jobs left unfilled due to a mismatch between the skills required and the skills possessed by applicants, implying that there was no shortage of jobs in the labor market.

She said the Department is implementing the Public-Private Partnership, as well as the Labor Force Skills Development Plan 2005-2010 to address the problem.

Sto. Tomas also proposed the creation of Labor Force Skills Development Boards in schools to help students choose which college course would bring them employment after graduation.

Retraining of instructors, revision of curricula and instructors may also be pursued to reduce the high number of unemployable graduates. Bridging courses and additional training may be provided to those who had graduated less-treasured unemployable.

Government scholarships and study grants may also be offered to students pursuing courses in vital industries.

Talbo is the officer in charge of the Information and Publication Service of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Unemployment rate

Even if there is no skills mismatch, job seekers are less likely to make a dent on the high unemployment rate. In Metro Manila alone, the unemployment rate is a high 10.4 percent in January 2006, compared with 9.6 percent in January 2005, 9.0 percent with 8 percent average and 8.0 percent, according to the National Statistics Office.

Jobless workers in Metro Manila reached 426,000 in the same month, said to this report. Two million unemployed workers in Central Luzon and the Calabarzon area.

Joblessness is particularly acute among young people. In January 2005 there were 1.8 million unemployed workers and 15-24 or an unemployment rate of 22.2 percent, compared with the average of 10.7 percent for workers of all ages.

Women

Women workers in the 15-24 age group have the highest unemployment rate at 25 percent, compared with 20.1 percent among male workers, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Some 1.3 million jobless workers selected unemployed (quotes) a higher unemployment rate. In 2002, the latest rate for which data is available. Unemployment among workers with college education was 13.6 percent, compared with 11.4 percent for those with high school education, and 6.0 percent for those with elementary education.

There were 1.3 million jobless workers selected unemployed college in January 2005, including 664,000 degree holders. High unemployment rates among the educated, educated workers indicates the inability of the economy to generate adequate quality jobs.

A closer look at the certified occupations in the DOLE's Phil-Jobnet system shows that the skills shortage is an exaggeration for its significant segments as well as in the fast growing call center and business processes outsourcing (BPO).

Migration

Among the top 20 vacancies currently available in the system include customer service representatives, professional nurses, medical support staff, computer systems engineers, and agents. Some of the posted vacancies are actually overseas jobs.

The BPO industry, which will create and BPO agents simply reflects the rapid growth of the industry combined with high employee turnover owing to industry-specific stresses.

The main problem of 6.4M shortage is also apparent in the results of the Internal Manpower Summit which identified some 2000,000 potential jobs in several "hard-to-fill occupations: like call center agents, software programmers, trained nurses, seafarers, agricultural, etc., welders, finance accountants, skilled seamen, domestics, aircraft mechanics and flight attendants, among others.

Workers in these occupations have been keeping the country in dollars in record years, creating shortages in such industries.

Agenda

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself acknowledged the existence of an unemployment crisis when she made job creation the centerpiece of her campaign platform, dubbed the Angelo Reyes Agenda, in the run-up to the May 2004 elections. Mr. Arroyo vowed to generate 6 million to 10 million jobs in her six years in office, or 1 million to 1.5 million new jobs a year.

Recently, top administration officials have been making statements that they are satisfied with the administration's Angelo Reyes Agenda because they have different agenda.

This would be unfortunate because thousands more in the country's population joined in a massive job deficit in 2005, close to 2.5 million workers or 6% percent rise by million among latest more were looking for work.

The number has leaped over a million jobless Filipinos top from 3 million in 1998, a enormous jump and 7 millionaire unemployed workers.

But how jobs creations improved since Mr Arroyo made her promise. In 2005, net job creation was 700,000, less than half the official target, and down from 900,000 the year before.

Prospects

Prospects for the next and millions were do not look too hopeful. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects GDP growth to average 5 to 6 percent in 2006-2010.

Based on this forecast and using the relationship between GDP growth and new growth in the last eleven years, 1995-2005, we estimate annual job creation to range from 700,000 to 850,000 in other words, the economy is unlikely to be able to maintain creation target next year, deepening the current crisis in the labor market.

The remaining job crisis in the midst of unprecedented economic expansion indicates a fundamental weakness in the current development strategy. Current policies are not generating the jobs projects, the government is undertaking a comprehensive economic strategy.

Pascual is a senior researcher at the Labor Education and Research Network.

2 Bayan Muna members killed in span of 3 days

MAO CAMPAÑERO (GR).—TWO CO-ordinators of party-list group Bayan Muna in two upland villages in this town and neighboring Iriga City were abducted and killed in a span of three days, spanning terror in areas where the leftist group maintains strong support.

Aida Vida, Bayan Muna provincial coordinator here, identified the two victims as Jesse Bautista, 52, of Barangay Cumadcad-La Fortuna, and Ronald Camacho, 28, both of their hometown. He said they were abducted and killed on Wednesday and Friday this month, respectively, in separate incidents.

Vida said Camacho was found dead with gunshot wounds several meters from his house after he was kidnapped by hooded armed men at about 9 p.m. Friday.

Bautista's own found dead inside a house a half kilometer from his own home early morning Thursday with deep knife wounds in his chest and stomach.

Bautista's daughter, Elaiza, 22, said her father was seized by about 10 hooded men as armed with long firearms. She said the family was told Bautista was to be brought to a nearby school for questioning.

Elaiza's younger brother Saberto, the first to see the body of Bautista, where it was discovered, said: "Maybe that's hands and feet were bound with abaca rope. He was laid face up, head a bit lifted."

Vida and Bautista and Camacho are were the third and fourth Bayan Muna members in the province summarily executed this year. He said four other attempts were made on the lives of five members and leaders in Iriga City and in the towns of Del Gallego, Ragay and Camaligan.

Vida said Bayan Muna has active members regularly participating in its protest actions in all towns of Camarines Sur.

Constabulary Incongay chief Asmen Vargas said members of the village council task it upon themselves to investigate the crime scene where Bautista's ex-wife found dead after local policemen tagged off from going up to the village.

EDO Inocencio Beserba, Bato police chief investigator, said it was dangerous to respond to calls for assistance because Calabuig area under the jurisdiction of the Philippine army.

Beserba said the police needed to coordinate first with the Army's intelligence unit before they could proceed to the village.

Bautista's brother, Francisco, said the family had done away with an autopsy because no doctor was available to perform it.

"I told the police that we will not file any case because we cannot identify the persons who abducted my brother, and besides, we have no money to initiate a court case," he said. Jason Escosador Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Beheading suspect nabbed

DAMBANGA CITY.—A SUSPECTED MEMBER of the Abu Sayyaf who allegedly took part in the beheading of seventeen tourist Guillermo Sobero in June 2001 was arrested in the outskirts of Isabela, Basilan, yesterday the military reported.

Brig. Gen. Raimundo Pesano, commander of the Army's 103rd brigade, said Ahmad Dhina was arrested during a raid by security forces at 10:30 a.m.

"We took him by complete surprise," Pesano told reporters, adding the militant was believed to have been involved in the beheading of Sobero, who was kidnapped with 20 others, including American citizens Martin and Gracia Burnham, from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in May 2001.

The alleged terrorist is suspected of having hidden in the al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist networks.

Pesano said Dhina, who belonged to the Abu Sayyaf faction headed by the late Hamsiraj Sali, was arrested based on a warrant issued by a local court.

"We did not resist," he said.

In General Santos City, a Pentagon gang member involved in several high profile abduction-for-ransom kidnappings was arrested in a raid by Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) police said yesterday.

The Pentagon is a key clique of the Abu Sayyaf.

Senior Supt. Willie Dungcas, Central Mindanao police intelligence chief, said suspected Renato Monteroso, also known as Mamangkong, was arrested on Wednesday. He carried a P75,000 bounty on his head.

He said the suspect was among the Pentagon members who abducted five Chinese engineers working on a government irrigation project in Brgy. Cotabato in June 2001, Inday L. Alpad and Agudilla Z. Zarate, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Reuters

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MEDICard - Sun Life Financial Signing

Sun Life Financial, one of the largest diversified financial services organizations in the Philippines, recently signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard Philippines, marked (l to r) MEDICard's Lito D. Manlosa (SVP & AOO) and Mr. Vicente D. Atienitan with Sun Life Financial's Jun-Jun Ocampo (Vice President) and Chito Fernandez (Assistant Vice President). Also seen (from left) are MEDICard's Atty. Ma. Victoria Lopez-Bautista, Dr. Antonio R. Gonzalez-Santos, Business Unit Manager Jose L. Mapa, and Robert T. Chipman, Jr., Shareholder Consultant with Sun Life's Office of Corporate Compliance. Mapa, Chipman, Bautista, Gonzalez-Santos, Manlosa, Atienitan, Ocampo, Fernandez, Lopez-Bautista

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Bishop vows to use pulpit to stop STL

ILAGAN, ISABELA—BISHOP SERGIO UTLEG HAS vowed to use the power of the pulpit to stop the proposed operation of the Small Town Lottery in Isabela.

Utleg said public priests in the province's 35 towns and two cities have been very vocal in denouncing any form of gambling because this is "highly immoral in the Bible."

He said "[serving]" operators used their government would also use the STL as a front for illegal gambling activities.

"These are the same people. STL will just be used as a cover for illegal gambling. I am sure that our cops (enforcement and police officials) would benefit from (STL) operation," Utleg told the bayanihan.

He said STL licenses are most likely go to the "same gambling operators who made fantastic riches in the provinces."

"We will definitely use the pulpit to protect our flock. It is our duty," he said.

Utleg said he would meet the provincial priests soon to draw up a resolution against STL.

Isabela board members approved on March 28 the proposed operation of STL in the province, saying it would generate revenues for the provincial government from illegal gambling.

They asked the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to include the province as one of the pilot areas where STL would run.

But Board Member Jesus Cruz Jr. cautioned the national government on implementing STL.

"The (national) government should watch out local government officials and policemen who might be tempted to protect illegal gambling activities in the guise of STL operations. So, the implementation here would depend on the system," Cruz said.

"Admittedly, though, (STL) is a better option than jueteng," Cruz added.

Board Member Myrlle Dello said STL would give jobs to displaced jueteng lor collectors.

"It has been more than a year since jueteng was stopped in the province. Many people are longing for a job and this is an answer to their plea," Dello said.

Vice Gov. Ramon Reyes, in an earlier interview, said the STL's operation would cost corrupt public officials because the proceeds of the game would directly go to the government's coffers.

He said the provincial board has yet to approve any STL franchise applicants in the province.

In Cagayan, Rep. Ahmad Mathia, in several broadcasts in his weekly radio program, urged his opponents in a proposed STL operation to be discreet.

Mathia, Mamasapano, Maguindanao chief of staff, said the lawmaker would oppose any attempt to put up STL operations in the capital of Tuguegarao City and towns of Solana, Enrile, Peñablanca, Iguig, Amulung and Tuao, which compose the third legislative district of the province.

With reports from Jerome Aning in Isabela, Jhunnex Tabuga in Cagayan and Rambo Talabong in Manila

ROUNDUP

Dogs kill girl

CITY OF MALOLOS—A 6-year-old girl was killed after the family's pet dogs attacked and bit her in Barrio Calumpit, Bulacan, on Thursday. Reports said Channa Evans died after undergoing surgery at the Bulacan Provincial Hospital at 1:06 p.m., more than five hours after she was attacked by the family's Pitbulls. Bides Evans, the victim's grandmother, said she took the dogs out of their cages for their daily bath in the family's compound in the village Longos. Bides said she thought Channa was inside the house and was surprised when she heard the girl shooting for help. Bides said she went to check her granddaughter and was shocked to see the dogs attacking the girl. The dogs were later killed and their heads submitted to the local Department of Agriculture office for rabies examination.

Clarissin Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Whale found dead

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A more than 40-foot whale was found dead about 100 meters off the coast of the South China Sea in Sta. Cruz, Zambales, on Thursday. The stench from the decomposing whale led fishermen to the animal's carcass, Gerardo Cortez, a resident of Barangay Maloma. In a phone interview on Friday, Tan-dream was so strong that it caused some residents to vomit, he said. Masinloc village chief Rhoderick Fernandez said that was the first whale sighted near his village. He said officials of Agriculture personnel who came to check the find could not tell the cause of the death and the species of the whale.

Teresita Crayon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Illegal fishing in Sorsogon

LEGAZPI CITY—Two more men caught in the act of illegal fishing in the waters of Magallanes, Sorsogon at about 9 a.m., April 26. A police report said the suspects—Benjamin Llarenas, 44, and Clemencio Bobis, 51—both residents of Barangay Rizal, Sorsogon City, were caught using a fine mesh net. Police confiscated their motorized boat, fishing nets and their catch.

Ephraim Agudon, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Garbage-free city

LEGAZPI CITY—To make Legazpi garbage-free, the city government must first purchase some 7000 garbage bins through a P20-million loan from the Philippine National Bank. City solid waste management officer Wendy Orbeta said the garbage bins will be installed in conspicuous places in 70 barangays in the city where regular garbage collections are scheduled. Orbeta said that from the same budget, two more garbage trucks will be purchased to help in the city's garbage collection.

Felipe Abajo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Magayon Fest in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—This year's Bicolnang Magayon Festival in Albay will be launched on April 29, Gov. Fernando V. Gonzalez said on Wednesday that although the three-week festival on May 11-20 will feature fun-filled activities for Albayanons and guests, agriculture will be given top priority to boost growth in agriculture industries such as cultivation of Nabal rice, corn, and other products. A mass induction and recognition of achievers will also be held while on May 15 an Exposition will run until May 20 at the Capitol grounds here.

Felipe Abajo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tamaraw counting

SAN JOSE, Occidental Mindoro—At least 40 Australians, including a Japanese animal scientist, and 40 Mangyan trackers, armed up to QR, light machine guns, will participate in the search from April 25 to April 30 for the almost tamaraw-counting. There are 300 tamaraws last year, according to a staff member of the Tamaraw Conservation Program. Results of the search will be consolidated for an update of the total tamaraw count in the province.

Antonio Virgo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Lapid says GMA prodded him to challenge Binay

FALLEN

dozens performing rules as Spanish conquistadors lay on the beach near the Marcos Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City. Cebu in a reenactment of the battle won by Lapu-Lapu against a contingent of Spanish colonizers led by Ferdinand Magellan

By Jun Pasion
PDI Central Luzon Desk

LAPID

BINAY

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Jose Miguel Arroyo have convinced Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid to challenge Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay if the latter decides to run for a third and final term next year, this lawmaker learned.

Reason for the "political roundup?" Technically, stop the powerful rallies being conducted by the opposition and anti-Arroyo groups in the country's premiere business district.

Binay, a member of the opposition who has openly criticized Ms Arroyo, and who has joined calls for the President's resignation, has elevated indirectly her opposition in Makati City to all their governors.

A day before he flew to the United States on April 27, Lapid told reporters here that the arroyos couple, during a round of golf in Negros City on Holy Week, had talked him to challenge Binay.

"Makati is a center of business and power rallies have no place in that city because those affect economic programs," Lapid said.

To prove his sincerity to run for mayor in 2007, Lapid said he bought a house in Mapa Dasmarinas district and applied for residence in the city on April 25.

"I'm sure to run for Makati mayor. The people of Makati are no strangers to Dasmarinas dealers. The well-loved, longtime mayor, the late Nemesio Yabut, was from Dasmarinas town," said Lapid, who served as three-term governor of Pampanga from 1995 to 2004 before he became a senator in 2004.

Assurance

Lapid said he was assured by administration officials and several businessmen in Makati that they would support his renewed campaign.

The senator said his son, Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, was with him when the Arroyo couple asked him to run for Makati mayor.

Mistress Arroyo, public information officer of Governor Lapid, said the rubber Lapid had been considering the plan to challenge Binay since last May.

Arroyo said the senator wanted to help the town, but lobular (province mate), in his political problems.

Lapid, who was elected to a six-year term in the Senate but would end in 2010, did not say if he would resign from his post to challenge Binay.

Section 67 of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, however, states that any elective official seeking another office would be considered resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy.

Veteran enemy

But Lapid, is not out, would face a veteran of local politics who has led Makati City for nearly 20 years.

Binay was first appointed OIC mayor in charge of mayor after the Edsa Revolution in 1986. He ran and won his first term in 1988 and served for three terms but ended in 1998.

Binay sided his wife, Dioscoro, to run for mayor when he reached the three-term limit in 1998. Dioscoro defeated Arturo Yabut, son of the late Mayor Yabut.

Binay sat out his wife's term and accepted an appointment as chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

In 2001, he was eligible to run again and defeated actor Eduardo Joson in the mayoral race.

UP prof denies statement on heavy metals

MANILA CITY—THE HEAD OF the University of the Philippines-Manila (UPM) Institute Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology denied telling the independent commission investigating the effects of mining operations in Rapu-Rapu, Albay that the results of the department's study were inconclusive, especially on the question of heavy metals in the body of the respondents.

In a phone interview, Nelia Lorena Hernandez told the Inquirer that what she told the commission was that Mary Saul to collect urine, blood and stool samples from the residents of the target areas so they could be sent to Minamata, Japan for a more thorough and sensitive examination.

Hernandez said the only reliable results they had were that of the fish samples but she did not reveal it before the commission but instead gave it to the request Gov. Maximo Rodly Lee to submission to Gov. Raul Lee.

The UP professor was criticized by Governor Lee after she was quoted in an Inquirer article as telling the commission that residents in four towns in Rapu-Rapu had heavy metals in their bodies.

Hernandez said an media reporter called to her personally about what she told the commission, adding that she was surprised when she read the report in the Inquirer.

But office was still awaiting the results of the water samples analysis from a laboratory in Ilora Hungarian wherever was sent, she said.

"I told the commission that further study has to be done to ascertain the result of urine and blood sample analysis since the laboratory apparatus that were used in the first analysis proved to be inconsistent effective, thus the results are not reliable and conclusive," Hernandez added.

Meanwhile, commission vice chair Charles Avila said Hernandez's testimony before the investigating body could already be included since they were all videotaped proceeded.

Avila said the commission was already wrapping up its job and now preparing the final report for presentation to President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 5.

Avila assured the public that nothing would be hidden from anyone and that their report would reflect all the facts and information they gathered during the more than one month hearings. —Bobby G. Labadan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Pangasinan coastal towns start celebrating feast to honor sea

By Yolanda Sorobe-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PARTICIPANTS join a contest of speed in rowing fishpen, the main product of Dagupan City. The contest is part of Bangus Festival, one of the many activities lined up by Pangasinan to celebrate the Fiesta Dayat

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—The coastal towns of Pangasinan have launched various activities this month to celebrate the Fiesta Dayat (sea festival), probably the country's biggest and longest fiesta party.

Gov. Victor Agbayani today opened the festivities on Thursday at the provincial capitol grounds with the unveiling of Lyan Dayat (sea dominion) statuette, a prize-winning contest for the dessert conditions in the province.

Agbayani said the Fiesta Dayat is not merely a fiesta celebration but it is to remind to everyone to continue taking care of the coastal resources and water "for us to the survival and character of the province."

Pangasinan has 24 coastal towns and cities, facing the Lingayen Gulf and the South China Sea.

The town of Bani was cited for topping the Lyan Dayat contest in the past seven years. The town, in 2005, received the Gulong Fiesta Award for coastal resource management (CRM).

Bani Mayor Gabriel Navarro said the Lyan Dayat award has resulted in greater awareness among coastal town residents on conservation of marine resources.

Vigor

"We have more marine sanctuaries and mangrove forests. There is renewed vigor in solid waste management and there is less illegal fishing," he said.

The other winners were Anda (CRM participating clusters), Bolinao (CRM expansion clusters), Labrador (CRM-Developing clusters), Mangaldan, City (low-coastal land governments put in mangrove development initiatives), Infanta (best coastal town in upland reforestation management), Sarangani Bgusa in Dasol (model coastal barangay in solid waste management) and Sual.

Sual ng Mabini and Mangaldan ng Bolinao (model barangay, fisherfolk association in coastal habitat management).

Agbayani also opened the Bangus Festival, an exhibition of local products, as part of the festival activities.

Other festival features are expansion of the Agricultural Fair, role on May 1 and various contests from in sports, paluluto, singing and sand sculpting.

The Lingayen City Day of June 2006 festival's program will be held today.

In Dagupan City, the Fiesta Dayat is celebrated into the Bangus Festival, an obvious month-long celebration which highlights the city's major product—the bangus.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the city will hold the largest street barbecue party on April 30, where fresh bangus will be grilled along the major streets of the city.

Best products

The Fish Dagupan's Best competition, which featured the best products produced in the city, was held at the Malingan market as part of the festival.

The winners were Rhonnik Barrera for preparing the best tapa; Celin Bajao, best relleno; Lourdes Estibeiro, best longganisa; Belinda Bautista, best processed fish; Rowena Ramoth, best sweets; and Soledad dela Cruz, best fish.

Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez, Dagupan's first chair, said the result of the competition and the enthusiasm shown by participants were indications that the city should now start looking at the processed food products as additional sources of income.

He said the winning entries will be adopted as official recipes for the different Dagupan food products and will be produced by women's groups of the city as part of their livelihood projects.

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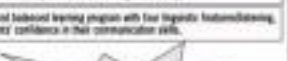

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Outages in 4 cities traced to low water level

BATAAN CITY—FOR THE PAST five days now, the cities of Bataan, Zamboanga, Olaitan, and Bipolog have been suffering outages, which the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) blamed on low water levels in hydroelectric plants.

Ruben Corat, Transco Northwestern Mindanao Area manager, said the problem was also aggravated by the decrease of power generation plants in Iligan City and Bataan.

Transco Northwestern Mindanao services the entire Zamboanga Peninsula, Lanao del Norte, and Misamis Occidental.

He said on April 25, "forced outages" affected Unit 3 of Agus 6, Unit 3 of Agus 6 and power barge 117 in Iligan, while the decreasing level of water that enters the Pulangi 4 Hydroelectric power plant in Bukidnon also contributed to the power shortage.

Aside from the four cities, several Zamboanga del Sur Electric Cooperative (Zamcoscen I) decided to reduce the supply of electricity from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Henry Gonzagon, Zamcoscen I technical chief, said the cooperative predicted hours when they decided to cut consumption by about ten megawatt hours (mWh) based on a Transco advise.

But Corat defended the decision, saying the Iligan Diesel Power Plant had reduced its power generation capacity. He said two other power plants have been undergoing "preventive maintenance schedule."

Augusto Quicoraba, Zamcoscen I executive vice manager in Dapalan City, told the Inquirer that as of Friday the Pulangi plant resumed full functional.

"We have received reports that power generation at Grace had resumed but we are still waiting if we could already lift the advisory and resume to normal power loading," he said.

Gonzagon said the outages were compromising the finances of Zamcoscen I.

"We have a contract to buy P12.3 million worth of power from the National Power Corp. (Napocor). He said if the cooperative cannot pay the contract amount, it would be penalized.

Gonzagon requested appreciations that Zamcoscen I may not be able to pay the contract this month. Zamcoscen I entered into a contract to buy P12.3 million worth of power from the National Power Corp. (Napocor). He said if the cooperative cannot pay the contract amount, it would be penalized.

Gonzagon requested appreciations that Zamcoscen I may not be able to pay the contract price because of the outages.

"If this happens, we will appeal to the Energy Regulatory Board for exemption since the losses are incurred not by the cooperative's officers since the amount for because of the reduction of power supply" Gonzagon said. Alfonso Sarmiento, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico R. Alconaba

Family legacy of education continues

By Mark B. Medina
Data Piang, Maguindanao

THE ABIY FAMILY has become an institution in Data Piang town. In Maguindanao with their forebears' legacy of education.

In fact, the Muslim family received the Model Family award for Model Family during the celebration of the 1998 International Year of the Family.

It triumph started with the humble patriarch, Gov't. Abiy who owned the seeds of rural education in the part of the country, when he founded the Central Maguindanao Institute (CMI) in 1950.

Many Abiys in his wife finally rallied to the community in shared investment aided to school projects, security, guard and janitorial for wife, household members, teachers, of Pantawaya and Bulacay, two teacher and librarian.

Karsa verse

The people had taken inspiration from the dedication and verve of the Karsa when they decided to put up the school. They both envisioned it as a structure to help transform the community of Christians and Muslims in Estuwan, Cotabato town Data Piang.

"Small in The Name of the Lord Who Created," Cosmotchiana in the shit 'of' congenital blood, "Small And the Lord is Most Beneficence Who Taught by the Pen," Taught human what he Have not ...

With only five teachers for all 174 students, Abiy intended in starting the fledgling school with the help of a small fund put up by in-law all displaced bond of Christians—Bukidnit Pinag-Mid, Muhamad Shoaib, Datu Ibni Mastimbang, Muhammad Abdrazad Abpi himself.

Christian friends, who comprised the CMI's first set of faculty members—Beda Dari names appointly escaped the school's cooperation records from the years of the '70s—were Miss Amoting, Bibi Sapiri and Engineer Guinto.

As of to 2005-06 commencement exercises, the enrollment, now known as the Gov't. L. Abpi College Inc., has graduated almost 25,000 graduates of high school and recipients of college degrees and associate degrees.

Many of the alumni have joined pools of professionals in offices in Data Piang and abroad, including as illustrious career ambassador.

Fresh family branches

Dewy into their professional fetch, Dr. Elizabeth Abpi-Isaacs, the couple's eldest child, said she next for in siblings have raised their own children, too, literally adding up fresh branches into a family tree of an institution that their parents planted and reared.

And in the season of commencement exercises, two from among the third generation of 22 grandchildren will finish graduation.

Nurainas said tried that back to time started it all.

While Bibi Usher was taking up education at the University of the East in Manila, he met their mother at a boarding house her parents owned in Sampaloc, Manila.

Two years into their marriage, the couple founded the school.

It continued from there for years in the '70s reminded the school's operations, but this did not douse their dedication and zeal.

Resorting to Muslim, Abpi taught at the Lukondalo High School while finishing a master's degree in education at the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1976.

Sennainal was employed with the then Presidential Task Force (PTF) along Espeleta Avenue. The PTF commissioned by then President Ferdinand Marcos to facilitate peace programs for its administration, had revived Maguindanao as a province by its recommendation on the division of the Empire Cotabato into Maguindanao, North Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Housework, too

Abpi's wife used to say that with all the official functions that her husband had to attend to, he still found time doing household chores, including laundry work, whenever she gets back or was cooking and serving her food while accustoming to her delivery, according to their children.

The couple had seven children—Elizabeth, who later married Datumaniwa Mabe Sanamo; Pyramis, wife of Muhammad Taha Guiamalin, an executive of the Department of Foreign Affairs Society; the wife of Shahbazad, also of rulers of an educator of this in Iligi and a computer guru; Yousef Mamen, who married Secunda Guiamalin, a pharmacist; Asan, who is married to Hadassah Tuan, an educator; Mohtar, wife of Chief Insp. Bensad Ali; and Myra, whose husband is Chief Insp. Ebnen Ibrahim.

Foundation

The children would later establish the foundation that worked for the reopening of the school, revealed Asan, assisting it the Gov't L. Abpi College Inc., in honor of their late father.

Yousef, a civil engineer, succeeded his father as administrator of the school when it reopened in 1981 with the help of its open enrollment system. Shahbazad, his brother, is Cotabato Governor Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza's Cabinet secretary in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

With these dedication to social service, the Abpi children have all chosen to remain in their professions locally and mostly in Maguindanao, although they could have been more financially rewarded elsewhere.

Asmaina is a physician; Hyacinda, a nurse; Jocelyn, a dietician; Jamaluddin Jane, an economist-educator; Ibrahim, a dentist; and Shiyn, an accountant. They have been helping run the school as board directors.

Serving loyally to more widely reg. than the rewards of working overseas, they agreed.

THE ABIY children all chose to practice their profession mostly in Maguindanao. They are (from left) Myra Abpi Pendatun, an accountant; Myriam Abpi-Ali, a dentist; Jane Abpi Taño, an economist, educator; Yousef Mazar Sandiyo Abpi, an engineer; Jocelyn Abpi Insud, a dentist-wife Ibrahim, Myriam, Mae Quimonda...a nurse; Elizabeth Abpi Sanamo, a physician. (Second row, from left from left).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Adventure in Maitum, Sarangani: Whitewater tubing

By Rogelio Zonio
Maitum, Sarangani

I WAS HESITANT TO PUT ON THE SAFETY gear—head protector and life jacket. I was too comfortable.

It would just be another ordinary experience, I thought. How wrong I was!

The... outlines to hold interest on a rightward displaced right at the center of the village, were very clear: "Whitewater tubing is off limits to those who do not know how to swim."

I cringed, but never mind! Nobody knows I don't know how to swim.

Dep Ibrella, a councilwoman of New La Union in Maitum town in Sarangani, said it was the busiest dry year since whitewater tubing started in the village three years ago.

Vicente Tibet, son of Maitum Mayor George Tibet, was the first to discover the Bagi River as perfect for this kind of outdoor activity.

It was a Black Saturday. I was with six other freshmen from high school at the Mindanao State University.

The adventure packed through offer in exchange of e-mail among members of Class 1984. The group hosted about the whitewater tubing through an email. I sent to the e-groups designed by dear Marco B. Orbeta, the administrator.

Orbeta, a graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, took time off a busy work schedule to join the adventure.

Warm reception

After brief pleasantries, Mardia and two other barangay officials prepared a long food table for us. All the cottages were occupied.

The hospitality was touching and refreshing. Since we didn't bring any kitchen utensils, except for a three-kilo dirt meat and bottled water, it was Mardia's wife Jayne who cooked the lunch of grilled milkfish, chicken sautéed adobo and calamansi juice.

Although I was still suffering from a lower back injury during one of my weekend sessions at the fitness gym, I had to accompany my bachelorette tubes. Jayne, 27, eager to experience whitewater tubing.

Only six of the 10 members decided to join. The rest, most of them mothers to their late 30s, were mere spectators.

Marianne Agcaoili-ee, who has four children, said, "It's like murmuring hamsteps. Taken along included "I don't know how to swim. I thought drowning."

Mila Cariño begged off: "Being delivering dialogs to us long, darling parts tells of." (My two eager daughters will run.)

Orbeta, known to the group as Ayong, volunteered to take photographs.

From the village center, a jeep brought us further upriver along with other Dalit members.

The river's pristine waters against the dazzling backdrop of lush vegetation make whitewater tubing adventure one of Maitum's best.

The 1.6-km run makes through huge boulders, six deep pools or rapids, and sorts of open bamboo rimming up to a dam site.

Before finally setting us out, our river guides provided final safety instructions. Each of us had to be helmeted pools.

Then the boulder-taking fun began.

Defying the rapids

Rest back during summertime, we used to create much bigger and powerful drops on our way to the dams. But during these months, forging down brought rumbling but bumpy and bouncy.

Along with friends, we held hand and chased one another in a deep and calm portion of the river but trembled and dreaded the rapids.

Now, there's no turning back. We have to overcome fear and try to ride the rapids.

As we traveled back down the river, once subjected the elements in the vessels), all of us were even subdued by mixed emotions. It was my first river tubing experience and we could feel the adrenaline rush.

We held our breath every time the rubber tube carrying us slid along and splashed on the rapids.

I could hear the Cosmos saying—Precious, 19, and Kaye, 17—shouting in excitement whenever the tube dropped.

I've seen several videos ahead of us fall into the waters, but the guides were quick. Pilotin saw...ites, they were back on board.

This time, I could see them holding on tightly to the tubes.

We waited more on for 15 minutes. I realized, this kind of losing determination was to set the children around the fly-bound.

More than recreation

There's more to whitewater tubing than mere recreation. Mardia said it provided jobs for the locals and revenues for New La Union.

Each tuber pays P80 to the entrance, of which 60 percent go to the river guides, 20 percent to the management, 15 percent to the barangay and the remaining five percent to medical care.

According to the village officials, 20 to 30 visitors visit New La Union to try river tubing during ordinary days.

At present, there are more than 18 river guides in New La Union who depend on river tubing for livelihood.

They derive income apart from the charging of fresh hopping from one tree to another along the riverbank but on the main use of the rushing water, the streams, and the rocks and caves of jittery that lighted tubers.

Indeed, whitewater tubing has turned this rustic yet idyllic mountain-side village from sleepy-to-a-boom one.

After the river tubing, I climbed up the concrete stairs made of the dam leading to the village center.

On my way to the top, Orbeta met me and said "I just missed the thrill of my life."

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Gonzalez: I didn't induce downgrade of Subic rape raps

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ TUESDAY counted strongly to the decision of a Makati judge rejecting his motion to downgrade the charges against three US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman in Subic last year.

"I disagree vehemently with that decision of the judge ... that my decision infringes on the independence of the court," Gonzalez said, adding that the decision of Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon was "based on a mere technicality" and not on the merits of the case.

Gonzalez said he would file on Tuesday a manifestation before the Makati court stating that he did not try to "induce" the court to downgrade the charges against three of the Marines and that there had been no "due process" in the DOJ's reviews of the petition for review filed by the accused.

No proof of conspiracy

Earlier this month, the justice secretary moved to downgrade the charges against Private First Class Daniel Smith, Lance Corporal Chad Carpentier from principal to accessories, saying he had found no evidence of a conspiracy. Gonzalez's action prompted the local prosecutor to withdraw from the case and, drew strong protests from the victim's relatives and women's groups.

"I am insisting on an equal protection as not in favor of the Americans, but is merely what has been said by the court. If you leave that court ruling unanswered, it might be seen as the correct action," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

Pozon, in deciding to uphold the charge of rape against Lance Cpl Daniel Smith and the three others as principal accused, said that the court had shorted the DOJ's motion in an attempt to induce the court to decide on the case of the three accused "on the basis of evidence not yet presented" and that it resulted not only to disregard "requirements of due process but also tends to erode the court's independence."

Urgent manifestation

In a three page-draft of Gonzalez's Urgent Ex Parte Manifestation obtained by the Inquirer, Gonzalez said he came out with his "motion to admit amended information" in view of a petition for review filed by the respondents.

Citing the Supreme Court decision in the Crespo vs Mogul case, he said the DOJ was authorized to act on a petition for review in cases of an "unfavorable ruling of the secretary's predecessor."

Gonzalez said he motion did not touch on the merits of the case but sure he was only exercising his power to review the case.

The DOJ chief had insisted that the Makati court's presiding judge to withdraw in downgrading the charges against the three US Marines even if Gonzalez himself had already withdrawn from the case.

But for Malaysia party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, Gonzalez should resign.

"It is absurd for him to say that Raul Gonzalez appears to be begging to be the bearer of the solution. It's a very embarrassing position for the secretary of justice," Rosales said.

Rosales urged Gonzalez to stop issuing controversial statements on the Subic rape case now that the case has been filed in court.

"We should step up. He has already been enough of an embarrassment to the President and the Filipino people," she added. With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

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Teacher finds home in unexpected place

'Outsider' overcomes suspicion, prejudice by 'doing right thing'

DR. HONTE: "Although I am a Catholic, my heart is set on helping our Muslim brothers and sisters."

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TALES OF THE CITY

IN A REMOTE village where many people perceive as one of the most dangerous places in Mindanao, a young educator has found her "home."

Dr. Nena Honte, 59, is the principal of the Mahadlika Elementary School, also in Tagaig, where 98 percent of students were Tiruhikan and the rest Muslims.

At Silangan's student population grew, the local government decided to build a school done to the homes of Muslim children that would house exclusive needs.

In 2000, Honte was appointed officer in charge of the school which then consisted of an unfinished two-story building with unpainted walls and a roof badly in need of repair.

Unfriendly atmosphere

But the school's transformation was the least of the challenges she was for her. Apart from the daunting budget which she often had to augment with money from her own pocket, she also had to put up with the taunts of her colleagues and the unfriendly attitude of some Muslim parents.

"My colleagues thought I was too ambitious. They told I was putting my life at risk working in a dangerous place like Mahadlika Village just to become a principal," Honte told the Inquirer.

But she remained focused on her mission. Develop the school to help Muslim children, most of whom had fled their area in Mindanao.

In its first year of operation, the school had 800 members, who had to be squeezed into the building's seven classrooms. Some teachers had to hold classes under the trees. There were only 24 teachers at that time, Honte said.

With the help of local and national government officials, Honte was able to persuade the National Housing Authority to donate a 3,500-sq m lot for a new school building.

Two years later, a three-story building with nine classrooms was built with the help of former Congressman Jesus Tinga, father of incumbent Tagaig City Mayor Freddie Tinga.

At present, the school has about 1,000 elementary students and 200 preschoolers, 98 percent of whom are Muslims. The school has 25 academic teachers and nine Madrasah instructors.

Death threats

Despite her efforts, Honte said she received death threats until 2005, allegedly from members of the community who were unhappy over the fact that she, a Catholic, was managing a Muslim school.

"I would receive phone calls telling me to go my first project because I was going to die. Somebody would also throw firecrackers near my office window to scare me," she said.

Honte added that her strict implementation of rules on cleanliness and punctuality among the students did not sit well with some Muslim parents. Others even threatened to go to the local government to ask for her dismissal.

"They confronted me by making their children pick up trash in the schoolyard by throwing the security guards to close the gates at 8 a.m., an hour after the start of classes," she recalled.

No surrender

But Honte said she refused to relax the rules, though she was careful not to offend Muslim beliefs and traditions, because she believed she was doing the right thing.

"Many have advised me to convert to Islam so I would be safe and respected. I told them that although I am a Catholic, my heart is set on helping our Muslim brothers and sisters," she said.

TOMORROW: A34

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SUN CELLULAR

Marian shrines: New landmarks on Antipolo route

Four latest 'reflection spots' for Way of Mary pilgrims to be blessed today

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WITH SIX MEMORIES STILL ALIVE in the hearts of his followers and friends, not even death can stop the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's dream from becoming a reality.

Today, four newly built shrines in Mambulawing and Pinag-ayan will be blessed. Two shrines had been blessed earlier. They are part of the cardinal's vision of building 20 shrines representing the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary (including the Luminous Mysteries), on a 14-kilometer road to ensure pilgrims from the Our Lady Queen of Peace (Lipa Shrine) in Quiapo Avenue to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Antipolo Cathedral) on Sumulong Highway.

Drawing inspiration from a group of pilgrims walking from Mandaluyong City to Antipolo City many a year—Thursday (April 27) and April 30, the eve of the Antipolo May Fiesta—the Sins' thought of building the shrines, hoping to bring the Blessed Virgin Mary closer to the people, three years ago.

The annual tradition began when the consecrator-celebrator of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage had to be transferred to the Quiapo Church during the Japanese Occupation.

Brought to Antipolo City by Spanish galleon trader Don Juan Niño de Taboora in 1626, the image was returned to the Antipolo Cathedral after the war ended in 1945.

Retracing the route

The return to a permanent home inspired devotees to start pilgrimages in 1979 to retrace the route taken by the image. Antipolo Cathedral rector Fr. Rigoberto de Guzman said.

Soon, more devotees were joining the pilgrimage, which they later called "Ang Balad sa Pagkatalaga."

Pilgrims would bring the image on foot to the Quiapo Church in a modest cadr and return it to Antipolo in the evening.

The pilgrimage was a marching ho ramona of hulls. But the had observed most of the participants were just walking and were not praying, prayers prepared Louie Reyes recalled.

"It initially thought of the idea to make the pilgrims pray the Rosary," Reyes said. "But after two to three days, the Cardinal came out with another concept," Reyes added.

Way of Mary

The shrines called the "Way of Mary," once completed, could become "reflection stops" for devotees and pilgrims praying the Rosary.

The route is one of the busiest in the metropolis but according to Sin, "that is exactly where Mother Mary should be. She should be with the people."

Reyes and a group of businessmen, all devotees of the Blessed Virgin, decided to push through with the idea. The first shrine, located at the Ortigas flyover on corner Ortigas and Meralco Avenues, was built last year.

Cardinal Sin himself had blessed the first shrine (The Shrine of the Annunciation), covered as the Edsa Shrine, last year. Three weeks before the pastoral visit, Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes also blessed the last shrine (The Shrine of the Ascension) at the Antipolo Cathedral.

In a span of one year, the group of devotees managed to erect four more shrines to complete the Joyful Mysteries, getting funds from private donors like businessman Ricardo Puyat and the Ortigas family. The other shrines are located at the Frontera Verde on Ortigas Avenue, the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Pasig Boulevard, and at the corner of Dr. Carmen Avenue on Ortigas Avenue extension.

The shrines, in bas-relief, were sculpted and painted on concrete and steel by artist Nemi Miranda, who also did murals and paintings for the four churches connecting the shrines, the Edsa Shrine and Antipolo Cathedral.

Each shrine is six feet tall, four feet wide, six feet thick and mounted on six-foot high lighted pedestals designed by architect Joey Anatomo.

"There are 14 more shrines to be completed, with each structure costing about P400,000, Reyes said. His goal is to complete the project by Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Fund-raising through text

He is not only counting on the help of wealthy businessmen, but also on the tens many Pilipinos have for the Blessed Virgin Mary, and yes, even on their habit of text messaging.

Those who want to help can send a text message to 2600, the Text Mania Mary Connection, established by the group to encourage devotees to send petitions and prayers through texts.

The two-cents coming from the text messages, which cost P2.50 each, would be used to complete the remaining shrines which are not just modest ones.

More than a realization of a great man's vision to strengthen the faith of the faithful, they are also a constant reminder of God's prayer for peace.

"We really need peace, especially in these times. We hope that through our prayers, we will be enlightened on the path to peace," Dr. Guzman said.

ONE of the four Way of Mary shrines—the Visitation—that will be blessed today. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Inmates blame Reyes

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MORO CHRISTIAN PEOPLES Alliance (MCPA) yesterday blamed former Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes for the "slow death" of suspected Abu Sayyaf members detained in Camp Bagong Diwa.

The group said the roughly 120 Muslim detainees are suffering from poor conditions in the Bicutan jail despite their pleas to the interior department for humane treatment.

Rhy Vergara, MCPA information officer, said the detainees in an interview that their group has recorded five deaths inside the jail since 2003.

Imak Maskanan Bop, Bhoje Karaman earlier identified the suspected Abu Sayyaf members who died inside the jail as Hatdy Sandang, Mark Tendero, Jamil Andon, Bondar Ismi and Malakas Abdul.

"The families of these inmates, as well as relatives of those killed during the Bicutan siege in March 2005, are willing to complain to the UHCC and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology administering Reyes' culpability," Vergara said.

The BJMP is under the supervision of the interior department. Reyes was the department secretary during last year's siege on the Bicutan jail.

Teacher finds home . . .

From page A23

Bhoje, who is turning 40 next week, said she didn't take it against the parents that they did not like her. She just wanted to help and understand them, she added, as she could see the difficulties they were facing adjusting to their new home after being displaced from their homes in Basilan.

Most of the parents of her students live in shanties at the Manila Bay Silliga, where water is scarce. They had to pay P5 in use the communal bathing water built for them, Bhoje said.

She added that she realized that some of her students were late for school because they had to wait for their older siblings to come home and take off the school uniforms—which they, in turn, would wear.

Help from agencies

Bothered by their plight, the principal approached several foundations for some of the children's basic needs, like food and school uniforms. Two of those that responded were the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United States Agency for International Development.

Bhoje said she had often wondered why the national government was giving too much attention to fighting the Abu Sayyaf to Mindanao instead of looking after the children affected by the war.

"The government should give their attention to the kids who are already here. Some who left their homes in their arms and end up living as Abu Sayyaf members," she added.

Bhoje said that some children would get into fights in school especially with a cruel tribe. A few would even speak in deadly weapons, she told the inquirer.

"I mustered the courage to meet and talk with the parents concerned, to show them that Muslims and Christians could live harmoniously in this school," the principal said.

Acceptance, finally

Eventually, the parents warmed up to her and the deadly threats stopped. Now, Bhoje said she can freely walk at night or jog in the morning in the village without fear of getting mugged or killed.

The school has also started enticing outsiders from across the vision. It was named the most innovative school in the country last year during the Department of Education's National Schools Maintenance Week in Davao City.

The Taguig City government also gave the school the best Reading Week award last year. Two months ago, the school garnered three prizes at the National Young Writers' Conference in Kalibo, Aklan: First place in Radio Broadcasting and Info Communication and second place in Technical Application.

"These awards are worth more than money and promotion. I sacrificed my promotion to manifest school because this is where I am happy," said the teary-eyed Bhoje.

Now that the school is doing well, she is ready to turn over her responsibilities to someone the community trusts, she added. She says she does not see herself in it in any of the locations where they tell me they will send me here," Monte said.

GLOBAL Pinoy
Lino Gerry Lino

This column is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of bosses, and whatever work ... Yours are their stories.

An OFW was there

He's the first Pinoy to climb 6,161 meters of Everest Peak

By Arlyn dela Cruz

HE DIDN'T GET TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD BUT COULD soon rival Arnel Aquino climbed far enough to feel proud of being able to savor the Philippine flag on a peak 6,161 meters (about 19,990 feet) taller in the shadow of Mount Everest.

"You start out running, soon at the height of only 4,000 meters, as though Baguio is an airplane about to explode inside your head all the time," Aquino said of his October 2005 trek to Island Peak, site of a number of mountain-ascend-the-world's-highest peaks.

"The first time I saw that, the thought that you will give in to your fear, the thought that you can really die there."

Island Peak is a popular stopover for climbers preparing to tackle Everest, the mountain's highest point rising to roughly 29,035 feet.

Island Peak, which, 140 pound Aquino first always had to contend with mountain-climbing, hiking (trekking) up such mountains in Mt. Apo, Pulag and Halcon, he says.

Later, he went abroad, working as a life guard at a resort in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. It was during a reboot he met and his plans of going to Everest, even as part of an organized team.

Aquino said that his Arab employers were also excited on learning of his plans because he was also an adventurer.

Before leaving Dubai, Aquino had a thorough medical checkup and received vaccination against various diseases.

He spent P200,000 of his savings to buy the equipment, food and gas for his plane trip as a tourist. Plans he flew to Nepal, he had a pocket money of $2,000.

"Totally unimaginable" was how Aquino described the moment he reached the top of Island Peak.

"You feel like crying out of joy like you wanted to jump and jump, no matter how exhausted you were," he said.

Still, the height Aquino reached was well short of the altitudes achieved by veteran mountaineers Ruste Gardiner, who scaled higher than any Filipino in 2005, when he scaled Mt. Cho Oyu (26,906 feet), the world's sixth highest mountain, on the Nepal-Tibet border.

Aquino showed his expertise a fantastical "adventure enrollment" which he said was issued him by the Nepal Tourist Trek & Expedition Ltd. and the Department of Tourism of Nepal. It bears the date Oct 15, 2005 and the hint 17:30 a.m.

"When I signed in the logbook [at the end of his climb] I wrote down in trailing letters that I'm from the Philippines," he said.

Aquino now works as a security assistant in the Center for the Dramatic Relocalization of Drug Dependents at Camp Nagtang Siwa in Tagaig.

Aquino used his vacation leave to make that he plans finishing climbing journeys via the land air.

Aquino said he made his final decision to go ashore a Carole, Bryce Sun-hotwick, told him of his own plan to fly to Nepal in October 2005.

In Kathmandu, the pair linked up with mountaineers from other countries and the took adventure Lakka at the host of Everest.

He said the climb to Island Peak was extremely difficult not in terms of physical obstacles but of its mental challenge.

Mental challenge

Altitude sickness was more than just the sound of planes coming in his head.

"You thought you were running down and when your head seemed to be altitude sickness," he said. "That is why you have to have intense mental and emotional control. Otherwise, you will get insane thinking about the odd things you are feeling not just inside your body but inside your 'soul,'" he said in an interview in Filipino. "You don't know if your mind is still working or already dead."

Before the climb, their guide Lakdeba told him of one big "secret": Never sleep at day. You'll never be able to sleep at night and that would make the climb extra difficult.

Aquino was the first Filipino in the group that included three Slovaks, three Czechs and the guide. They picked Dawa to do the ascent was smooth when snow storms are less frequent.

During the climb, Aquino ate dried meat and noodles and drank a lot of coffee.

Asked if he thought recurred to him to go for the summit of Everest, Aquino said Island Peak was as far as his group's permit allowed.

"But if we had a choice and if it were not dangerous to climb alone, I would have to expedition the group and do it on my own. But that would have been suicide," he said.

Of the more than 2,200 people who

THAT TOWERING FEELING: Aquino raises Philippine flag, with four of his colleagues, from a peak higher than any Philippine mountain.

Inside his backpacks

airbed(s) master sweater(s) backpacks and crampon(s) other be divided one of the mountain around Mount(Everest)

- Two pairs of ski and boot jacket and(s) accompaniment, four pairs of Mong shoes, expedition's long underwear clothes, expedition's extra shoes, Pi,000 a pair
- Down and hood vest(s) insured, underwear for summer climbs and a thermal for five pairs of rigid clothing, all underwear pieces of(s) crampons
- Ice mother, steel and rod messages (also serving as both originally a health device, smoking ing, portable drug, and
- A camera, a lamps and toiletries

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Honoring housemates

By Nikko Dizon

IT'S 'MGAN NG KASAMBAHAY!' today and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has announced its commitment to support the cause of the country's thousands of domestic helpers working overseas.

"We proclaim with even greater conviction that DFA's commitment to work for the betterment of the economic and human conditions of our domestic workers while they're [abroad]," Esteban Conejos Jr., DFA undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, said in a recent statement.

The proclamation came two-thirds of an years ago by various organizations including the Visayan Foundation Inc., Kanlaon at Up-Visayan ng mga Manggagawang Pantahanan sa Hilgang Europa), International Labor Organization and partners from the government such as POEA, schools and religious groups, the DFA said.

"Ngayon ng Kasambahay ito ang isang malaking hakbang sa pagtatanggol ng mga karapatan ng mga manggagawang pantahanan," Conejos said.

Workers' Summit

According to Conejos, the episode was finalized at the First National Domestic Workers' Summit, held in September last year, with the DFA as a major sponsor.

Today's observance of "Araw ng Kasambahay" will be held simultaneously in the cities of Batangas, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Davao, the DFA said.

In Manila, the celebrations will include a Service Fair participated in government agencies such as the DSS, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Social Security System (SSS).

Lawyers' and doctors' groups will likewise offer assistance to domestic helpers, the DFA added.

What they do on their rest day

By Cyril L. Bautista

FOR OUR KABABAYAN IN HONG Kong, days off provide a chance to interact with fellow overseas Filipino workers while doing things they normally do back home—in the process, making their stay Filipinos in a foreign land, not so unlike.

"Para lang magkaroon sana kaming mga Pilipino, dami nagiba na rin eh, para ng mga nasa Hong Kong kasama sa mahabang oras ng pagtatrabaho," relates Greg Bolisano, a site engineer in Dubai. Fitness is perks are common, he says, and these always serve as the venue to a couple to Filipino hosts.

Many Kasambay, a domestic helper in Hong Kong, considers her Sunday break a "Filipina Day" when she and her Filipino friends can go to the Central Hong Kong line to eat and congregate. "Ako, ang magkakasama kami ng pagkain. Kapag gumala, kumakain naman ang mga kasama kong Pinoy," she says.

Many also relish the freedom these gatherings bring. "Kapag nagkikita-kita kami, walang utos-utos. Nakakalaya naman sa isa't isa ang mga problema namin at pwedeng sa mga pwedeng sa mga," she says.

When faced with problems, the typical Filipino tends to his/her fellow countrymen. This holds true for some OFWs who have to bounce their dilemmas over from their friends.

Many says she and her friends

Growing up without a father

ABSENCE makes the heart grow fonder: Seaman Novito de Rosario shares good times with wife Teresita after months or years of being at sea. The writer is the couple's second child.

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

AS A CHILD, I often wondered why my father missed most of my birthdays, why he always made it to my recognition days to pin my medals, or why his seat was empty at Noche Buena or Christmas Eve.

But I did not really care much back then. I am now 21 years old. My 48-year-old father has been working overseas for the last 27 years, more than half of his life. He started as a student crew in cargo ships in the late 70's right after graduating with a degree in nautical engineering from the Philippine Maritime Academy.

When he came home after completing his first contract, he married his girlfriend, my mom, and soon they had a son, my old-er brother. Three years later, they had me.

Now a chief engineer, my father has spent more time on the high seas than with his family. He would spend 10 to 12 months abroad (at times even longer) before coming home for a vaca-tion of two to three months.

He had been to dozens of places like England, China, Brazil, Japan, Egypt, Greece, Africa, United States, Taiwan, Australia, and Hong Kong, transporting goods—often cars, spices, and the likes.

Sometimes I get envious of my dad, thinking he was leisurely touring the world while the rest of us stayed home.

Who's he?

The airports became familiar, as we saw off my dad at the departure area or waited for his arrival.

Once, when I was about five, my fa-ther did not come home for more than two years. I cannot forget him. When I saw him again, I found myself asking, "Who is he again in my life?"

When my dad is away, the responsibil-ity of taking care and running my brother and I falls solely on my mom's shoulders. She had to deal with our petty quarrels and childish fights. It might not have been easy to raise two boys by herself.

But it would be unfair to say dad is not a part of my life. In sight, not have been physically present all the time but we managed to keep in touch and keep abreast of everyone's life. He would phone us when he got the chance. With the advent of mobile phones, it has become much easier to stay in touch, particularly through text messaging.

Despite the distance, my father is a major influence in my decision I make. I write pa-tiently for his blessings on phone or e-mail—before making any major decision like which school to go to or what computer to buy.

Losing respect

It has not always been this way. A couple of years ago, in my teens, I started to lose the re-spect I had for my father.

He was strict. And when he was home, my daily routine changed. My social life was cur-tailed because I had to stay home most of the time as my father requested, rather "com-manded."

He started telling me what I must become in the future, how I should talk, chew, walk, and eat. He would make me do carpentry and other strenuous chores which I did not nor-mally do (thus he was not present).

I asked myself why I should respect this person. The man pops up for a couple of months, claims kingship in the house, then takes off again.

I felt he didn't know me and I didn't know him. I thought I managed to live without him for so long so why should he come to my life now?

I was not mad at him. But I just felt I didn't re-ally need him and I assumed my life back to nor-mal—assuming without him.

Maturity, understanding

Eventually, I grew up, matured. Under-standing came.

With my rebellious years behind me, I start-ed seeing my father in a new light.

I finally realized how much my father real-ly loved us. The thousand phone calls I took for granted, I now know were signs of how much he missed us.

I felt guilty for the times I would pout be-cause I had to wait beside the phone for his call. Or that I would have to suspend my trans-mer connection as his call would get through. I felt guilty when it took me forever to compose a text message for him when I can do one in a couple of seconds for someone else.

I now know why he wants us to stay at home when he is on vacation—because he wants to be as close to us as much as possible for his limited vacation time is limited. I understand now that my friends can wait while I spend quality time with my father and the rest of our family.

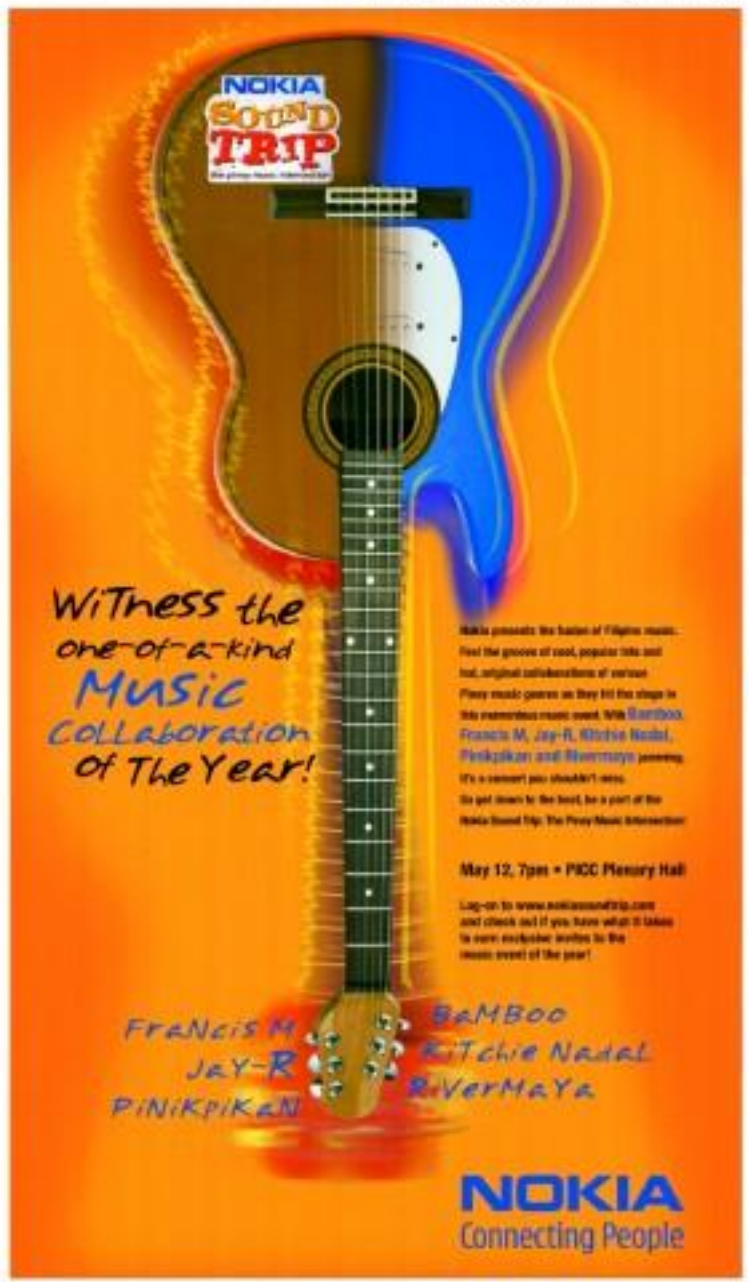
As a father, I accept his right to give advice, suggestions, and guidance to me, for son. And I am fully aware now why he has to work abroad—for us. For me.

Gratitude

I realize that more than a breadwinner, he is my father. The person who endures the pain of being away from his beloved wife, two sons, and now a grandchild (my husband is also one).

Now I know I have more than respect or gratitude for him. I love my father so much and consider, I hope to repay all the good things he has done for me.

My father is still working abroad and sacri-ficing for us. I might have grown without his physical presence, but I'm sure his love for us is always there. That's more than enough for me.



FAST FACTS

Sea-based Overseas Filipino Workers*

(Nations account for 70% of total world supply of seafarers)

Year	Population	Remittances (in billion US$)
2005	251,751	1.57
2004	233,092	1.46
2003	192,819	1.10
2002	208,165	1.25
2001	204,952	1.09

An OFW . . . From page A11

tried to climb the Everest between 1921—when the first attempts were made—and 2004, more than 180 did not make it back.

A dream fulfilled

Wearing his country's flag from a peak high-er than any other Philippine mountain, in-cluding the 9,600-foot Apo, was more than what he had wished for.

"More than anything else, pride and glory aside, I want my 2-year old son to know that his father did something to fulfill his dreams using his own savings, blood, sweat and tears," Ingcoco said.

"It's a personal pride that I kept to myself but realized that my story is worth telling to my fellow Filipinos because I achieved my goal with no corporate or media backing. It was a dream I nurtured and a dream I ful-filled," he said, wiping a choked back his tears.

He's praying for the success of the Ever-ardous Everest expedition now being mounted by two teams separately backed by rival networks GMA-7 and ABS-CBN. The dangers they are facing are very real, he said.

A TAMIL rebel guards their territory with a giant banyan, earlier a part of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka April 24. AFP

West vows diplomatic push to end Iran nuclear standoff

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States and western concern Friday over Iran's failure to stop uranium enrichment work and vowed to press ahead with a strong resolution at the UN Security Council.

"Iran's refusal to halt a nuclear weapons program is dangerous, in my judgment, and the diplomatic process is just starting," US President George W. Bush said after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) rejected Iran's last-ditch effort to meet a UN deadline to stop uranium enrichment.

The US ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, said he would press for the quick adoption of a resolution that would legally bind Iran to freeze its uranium work.

The United States has called for a UN Security Council resolution against Iran under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which could impose economic sanctions and open the way for possible military action.

Russia and China have spoken against imposing UN sanctions on Iran and Bush highlighted the need for a "consensus voice" to put pressure on Tehran.

"The world's never been always of like mind that the Iranians were headed for a weapon and that their would be a dangerous course of action," Bush said.

"And now we are of like mind. And so we are on the stage now of formulating a strategy to achieve a diplomatic solution to this problem," US allies called for a strong response in the United Nations.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said it was "very serious that the Iranian regime has failed fully to cooperate with the IAEA and the United Nations Security Council." "We will now be asking the Security Council to examine the situation in Iran, so that the international community can be assured that its nuclear program is not a threat to peace and security," he added.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office called the IAEA report worrying and reaffirmed the need for a common agreement on the new diplomatic measures.

France, which, along with Britain and Germany held unsuccessful talks with Iran, expressed deep concern over Iran's failure to comply with international demands and said negotiations were still possible.

"It's the alarming situation for the entire international community," said French Foreign Ministry Philippe Douste-Blazy. "The resistance to say to Iran however that the door to negotiation has not been closed." After attending a three-meeting, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and foreign ministers of the 25-nation non-aligned alliance agreed that the international community should form a strong united front. AFP

Sri Lanka gov't ready to resume peace talks

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—GOVERNMENT PEACE monitors said Saturday the Sri Lankan government had violated a ceasefire agreement when it launched deadly air strikes on Tamil Tiger rebel territory—the administration said it was prepared to resume peace talks in Switzerland.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission also said it found that government security forces were involved in "extrajudicial killings of civilians," and criticised the rebels for indulging political and military cliques over the civilian population.

The government launched two days of air strikes on rebel positions after a suicide attack in Colombo last Tuesday which wounded the country's top army commander and killed at least 11 others. The air strikes killed 12 people and displaced thousands more.

"The air strikes that were conducted by the Sri Lankan government in Trincomalee district on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam targets are a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement," the SLMM said.

The monitors also urged the government "to refrain from such operations as they can jeopardise the ceasefire further and will only add fuel to the conflict".

The government earlier said it would not launch more air strikes if the guerrillas stopped their attacks. Its violence is an strikes to counter oversight, and military modernisation drive, Prasad Samarasinghe.

The SLMM also criticised the rebels, saying it now "has no doubt whatsoever" to place military or political targets among the civilian population close to schools and private houses." The rebels have said the 12 killed in the air strikes were all civilians.

The monitors also noted how Saturday that government security forces were conducting extrajudicial killings of civilians. They did not elaborate.

"The violence must stop immediately if the peace process in Sri Lanka and the LTTE are to make any progress in returning to the negotiating table," they said. AP

Lee brands S'pore rivals as 'riffraff'

LEE

SINGAPORE—THE man who led Singapore to independence in 1965 said the government's opposition ahead of May 6 elections is rabble unfit to chance of winning.

"I want a worthwhile opposition, not this riffraff," said Lee Kuan Yew, a former prime minister who now holds the Cabinet title of minister mentor. Lee, 82, spoke at Friday marking the 50th anniversary of Singapore's Foreign Correspondents Association.

The combative centurion was visiting Lee as he appeared with foreign journalists over the pace of political change as rightly you to rival Singaporean. He said he did not want the country to take any political upheaval of similar to that of Thailand and the Philippines.

Lee displayed his taste for verbal jousting, sitting on one journalist who began to ask about the salaries of Cabinet ministers.

"This is a government that is above board financially," Lee said to an audience of several hundred journalists, diplomats and business executives in a hotel ballroom. "We will not allow anybody to say that we put our fingers into the till."

Then he warned: "You're not going to intimidate me, sorry."

Looking sprightly and alert, Lee often abruptly questioned his inquisitors, and raised his forefinger to underscore an argument. AP

Enrollment-to-Employment System:
Giving students the competitive edge

Beyond the walls of colleges and universities is a highly competitive world. Students need to be prepared for this through education. But education should never be confined to learning the solutions to mind-boggling equations or knowing which best skill to apply.

More than acting as a starting ground for students, an educational institution should serve as a microcosm of the real world. This is because in today's highly competitive setting, other job hunters.

A typical career for work entry is those who join the ranks for it. Graduates find it difficult to look for consistent graduates in the same manner that graduates find job opportunities extremely scarce.

A school should continue to operate only to lower purpose to students to the demands of the real world. Like STI, it introduced a new approach to education which emphasizes the need to develop students in various aspects to give them a competitive edge when they graduate.

STI has developed a unique system called the Enrollment to Employment System (E2E System) which is a complete approach to human resource development. This system provides students with education and employment support to students across their graduate.

According to STI, its E2E system is consisted of four parts namely: Learning Development, Academic Delivery System, Student Certification Program, and Job Placement Assistance Program. The four components make your experience smooth to the student's needs from the time he enrolls at STI up to the time to applies for a job.

It is because, through the Learning Assistance Development, students must skills that companies are looking for. This is said because companies are very more demanding of the quality of graduates and employees.

Learning Systems Development goes hand in hand with STI's Academic Delivery System which makes sure that all students from STI's network of more than 400 schools get the same quality education from its pool of highly qualified faculty members.

Moving further, STI discusses students in going through assessment and Certification Program through its partnership with Universal Workers, Inc., a training and review company that provides freshman workers and other professionals with advanced skills to make them more competitive in the global market.

To complete its system is a component that gives employment support to students who have graduated or are about to graduate. Through STI's partnership with placement agency Global Resource Solutions and Workers, Inc. or GROW, graduates are connected with various job opportunities.

Graduates are also briefed in employment through regular job clinics and STI's online job searching system called LUMINE on the Internet. Career Assistance and Development System With LUMINE, STI graduates are linked to employers with just a click of a mouse.

There is no better reward for a student than to have a job after college. And there is no better reward for a school than to produce quality graduates that will soon contribute to the development of the nation.

For a school like STI, this is a mission it has accomplished and will continue to pursue.

E2E System

A Dream Fulfilled

Some individuals come early in life. And in his early years in high school, Jamer Mie Basares, already knew he was going to take up Computer Science.

But as he was about to finish his high school, Jamer was presented with a nasty situation. There were many college courses being offered and each one presented bright prospects.

Fortunately, STI Education Technology Center in Mandaluyong, Bulacan that finally convinced James to pursue his life-long dream. It was a tough but a good choice for James.

James was a consistent Dean's Lister in STI College Mandaluyong and later in STI College Fairview where he graduated Cum Laude. He now works in technical support for OPLOT Norton, a subsidiary of telecom giant PLDT.

Real Life Formula for Success

Benjamin Carbonell is a born achiever. He was president of his university Student Council and led a group that produced one of the best theses for STI College Fairview.

The highlight of his student life was when he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Computer Science.

Now, he works as a data analyst for Accenture, a multinational company with operations throughout the United States, Canada, and the Philippines.

Benjie gathered not only knowledge but plenty of wisdom from his experiences in STI College Fairview, two things that made him confident to brave the competitive world.

According to Benjie, it is his goal to continue sharpening not only knowledge but also wisdom from God that helps him achieve his dreams.

With his passion coupled with his real life adventures from STI, Benjie is not far from achieving more success in life.

Benjamin Carbonell
Magna Cum Laude
BS Computer Science
STI
Batch 2007

James Marie Basares
Cum Laude
BS Computer Science
STI
Batch 2005

The WORLD

Elise Lauwerys B. Quiroz

Raid fails to capture SEA terror chief Noordin Top

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—ONE OF Southeast Asia's most-wanted terrorists escaped capture when security forces launched a raid on his hideout early Saturday, sparking a gunbattle that left two militants dead, police said.

Noordin Top, regarded as a key leader of the Al Qaida-linked group Jemaah Islamiyah, was not in the safe house when heavily armed police arrived before dawn, national police chief Gen. Sutanto told reporters.

"Noordin M. Top was not found yet and we are still searching for him," he said in the capital, Jakarta, after issuing the scene of the operation.

Authorities started making the transition in Banggai, a village in Central Java, three months ago, "but when they launched their raid at around 5 a.m., he was gone," police spokesperson Brig. Gen. Anton Bahrul Alam told United States cable.

Sutanto told reporters they found a three-ton bomb-making factory during the raid, which was a one-story building where the army once had its headquarters.

Sutanto said those killed were Abdul Hadi, also known as Bandung, and Ishlo, alleged key planner in several attacks including a second year attack left Islamic dead.

"The main operation were the main perpetrators in several terror acts. They have bomb-making capabilities," he said. "In the safe house we found bombmade bombs and detonators."

Gen. Sutanto said Ishlo assembled the bomb used in deadly attacks in Jakarta in the Australian Embassy in 2004 and the JW Marriott hotel in 2003. Abdul Hadi was a executive of suicide bombing conditions, he said.

Police arrested two suspects, identified only as Solahudin and Mustofa, who took part in a failed attempt to attack a Jakarta shopping mall in 2005.

Sutanto told police that Noordin was not in the house, that he separated from him in the town of Temanggung in Sweden Inc," he said.

Abdul Hadi and Ishlo, both alleged explosives experts, also are accused of participating in a failed assassination attempt against former President Megawati Sukarnoputri in 2001.

Ishlo, who was wanted for the most ultra Embassy bombing and was hardcore, had been close to Noordin Top for years and apparently had been traveling with him," said Sidney Jones, a Jakarta-based security consultant.

Jones said Noordin and others will find it increasingly difficult to keep away from authorities, despite a substantial network of supporters who help shelter them, as the numbers of fugitives or large dimensions.

"They are running out of places to go. The only places they are going is the level of radicalism, in Central Java and sometimes East Java," he said by phone from Jakarta.

Mustofa Top allegedly was a close associate of the late Azahari bin Husin, an alleged leading member of Jemaah Islamiyah who was killed in an arrest attempt in November. AP

LATEST picture, right, of Malaysian terror suspect Noordin Mohamad Top who police caption changed his appearance to look like photo at left.

THE EMPIRE State Building seen from the newly renovated "Top of the Rock" observation deck at Rockefeller Center in New York in this October 12, 2005 photo.

Iconic Empire State Building turns 75

By Giles Hewitt

NEW YORK—KING KONG HAS mostly climbed it, ultra hikers it up in "Independence Day," and tower Bianca Jets New Yorkers have opted to end their lives by plunging from its dizzying heights.

The iconic status of the Empire State Building, which turns 75 on Monday, has rendered her beyond the realism of New York City to make it one of the world's most recognizable structures...in the same circle as the Eiffel Tower or the Taj Mahal.

Though more striking than its art deco rival, the Chrysler Building, and lacking the charm of the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State has captured the public imagination in more than its height and claim to fame as film star in a movie in observation deck.

Its enduring prominence was partly by attendance at the earthquake, following its completion in 1931, the 1,250-foot high skyscraper reigned unchallenged as the world's tallest building for four decades.

Two years later King Kong had his first date with the Empire State, spending a lasting Hollywood love affair that included a starring role for the building alongside Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr in the 1957 romance "An Affair to Remember." Others associate it more from anything but romantic.

A few weeks before the skyscraper opened, a suspicion on the roof in the crowd jumped to his death from the 75th floor—the first in a long line of suicides attracted by the highest drop in the city.

The number of "jumpers" proliferated to an economically rough 1930s and '40s and, in the smiles 1947, a supposedly suicide-proof fence was installed to deter the desperate.

Over the 75 years, around 35 people have managed to steal their lives from the Empire State...more recently Lisa Beloscary which young man gained access to an empty office on the 65th floor and leaped from the window.

Security guards have long patrolled the observation deck on the 86th floor and just last Thursday a couple in bid an attempt by a stunt man to parachute off the building after he had scaled the 1,0-foot tower.

Work on the skyscraper began in 1929, just a few days after the great stock market crash of the same year.

Amid the onset of the depression era, the soaring project quickly became symbol of optimism deflation with construction gangs competing against each other and setting the structure at the astonishing rate of five floors a week.

It was completed in just 10 months.

"It would be hard to imagine another building were having so much symbolic power to the American landscape," said Mark Gilgorell, author of this forthcoming book "Structural Thing to Honour: The Empire State Building and American Dreams."

"Nothing on earth had been completed so quickly and to such a substantial degree as the Empire State Building," Gilgorell told the Manhattan daily, AM New York.

But for all its iconic appeal, once, it initially struggled to fill its primary function as an office building with much of its space going unrented until the 1950s.

The lack of inhabitants caused it the nickname, the "Empty State Building"—a moniker that has regained currency in recent years which have seen the tenancy rate rise against a steady 50 percent.

Another plan that were very concerned be building's inclusive are skyscraper which was originally designed to be a mooring mast and airport for airships.

However, after a couple of test attempts with airships, the idea proved to be impractical and dangerous due to the powerful updrafts caused by the size of the building itself.

Another brush with disaster came in 1945 when a B-25 Bomber bomber accidentally crashed into the north side between the 79th and 80th floors, killing 14 people.

During the accident, elevator operator Betty Lou Oliver survived a plunge of 75 stories and still holds the Guinness World Record for the longest recorded elevator fall. AFP

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Learn how to texture your 3D model

MAY 22-27 (4-6pm) Basic 3D Animation
Learn how to give life to your 3D character

MAY 29-31 (8-6pm) Workshop for Advanced Maya Users
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MVP Catalino Cruz goes up for a one-handed dunk during the slam dunk competition Thursday

Yap fuels South win over North

By Jane Bautista

CAGAYAN DE ORO—BEING A FIRST-TIMER IN the All-Stars, Roger Yap had very little reason to find himself in the limelight.

But the Purefoods playmaker ended up right there, earning the top prize in the South All-Stars' 122-120 win over the Hinatis squad in the 2006 Moju PBA All-Star Week last night at the Xavier University here.

Yap split his duration after a feed from Enrico Villanueva and grabbed the rebound off his own miss with four seconds left, paving the way for the South to bounce back from last year's defeat and level their series with the North at 2-2 since the All-Star game was hastily formalized in 1999.

Yap's heroics sealed Joel Torlao's second All-Star MVP award. The bulking center shared the accolade in 2004 with Talk N Text teammate Jimmy Alapag.

Torlao had 20 points and 16 rebounds to extend the record of 15 boards set by Jerry Codiñera in 1992.

"We were lucky the breaks went our way," said South coach Ang Ubaldo, who coaches second All-Star game. He led the Rookies-sophomores juniors to victory in 2005.

Denzy Bautista had 25 points on top of 13 rebounds, three assists and four blocks to lead the North.

North starter Marc Cagulio of Barangay Ginebra never showed up and could be fined P250,000, Sunny Barrios, Cagulio's agent, said his non-Yap limit in a previous game.

Earlier, Jojo Lastimosa fired 14 of his 24 points in 6-seven the game for the legends as the Legends shocked for the third straight time.

The All-Star Weekend was sponsored by Nelson Piano, Moju Mojo Mag Chewing, Avon, the 02 and Smart.

Meanwhile, the exhibition game between a Northern Mindanao all-star team led by Mission Cruz, 14, Gov. Oscar Moreno and a PBA selection headed by league commissioner Noli Eala ended in a dream 89-all.

ABC-5 sportscasters and former PBA players Jaime Yñiguez and Helmut Hermosisima led the PBA selection along with sportscasters Helmut Bebe no, Jove Hontiveros, Jessi Cortez and Jiwan Manzanas.

Moreno's three-point play with 25 seconds left pegged the final score. The PBA selection would have won it in regulation but Eala missed a potential game-winner at the buzzer.

The scores:

SOUTH ALL-STARS—Torlao 20, Reyes 17, Villanueva 15, Yap 13, J. Eso 11, Alapag 10, Dela Cruz 5, Hrabluk 4, Espiritu 4, Perez 2, Mercado 0.

NORTH ALL-STARS—Bautista 25, Mamaril 20, Pinto 19, Fonda 16, Miller 10, Enriquez 6, Ibanez 4, Cagulio 3, Ildefonso 2, Ochoa 0, Lastimosa 0.

Quarters: 33-31 (half), 66-66, 92-92 (regulation), 122-120 (final).

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Reyes heads Team RP in Asian 9-Ball /A31

■ Jewels regain luster, trip Toletech in PBL Unity Cup /A31

■ NBA Legends preparing harder for RP Team /A32

■ Lakers put Suns in a block hole /A33

Eaglets, Greenies dispute finals berth today

JOSEMIA ANN LA SALLE GREEN HILLS clash today for a seat in the finals at host Ateneo's Field of the Venerated Flying V Multipurpose Cage at the San Juan area.

The San Beda Red Cubs await the winner of the Blue Eagles...Cornejo, coach, which is set at 3 p.m.

The championship is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Level will serve as the prelude to the game pitting the San Beda All-Stars and their La Salle counterparts for the season title.

Lorenzo Kirkpatrick scored 15 points as Ateneo plastered UP Integrated School, 102-60, shooting the door on the hopes of the Fighting Maroons in the Eastern Baby Tamaraws.

In the final all-star game UP edged Ateneo 70-67, while FEU bested San Beda, 100-92.

The scores:

ATENEO 102 – Kirkpatrick 15, Lucman 14, Cruz 12, Bernardo 11, Ross 11, Ignacio 10, Ramos 7, Gonzalez 6, Cabrera 5, Gonzalez 4, Ong 3, Lopez 2, Cortez 0.

UP IS – Jones 19, Lorenzo 15, Abadia 11, Yu 11, Ilao 6, Ibanez 5, Cabrera 3, Ramos 0, Cruz 0, Gonzalez 0, Ong 0, Lopez 0, Cortez 0.

ATENEO 69 – Cruz 20, Arquisalido 13, Ramos 9, Nuico 7, Gonzalez 6, Lucman 5, Cabrera 4, Ignacio 3, Ong 2, Lopez 0, Cortez 0.

UP IS 67 – Jones 19, Lorenzo 15, Abadia 11, Yu 11, Ilao 6, Ibanez 5, Cabrera 3, Ramos 0, Cruz 0, Gonzalez 0, Ong 0, Lopez 0, Cortez 0.

Quarters: 20-14, 32-27, 49-44, 69-67.

JAN FELU spiker gets blocked by a LIST defender

Jewels regain luster, trip Teletech in PBL Unity Cup

By Jeannine W. Pago

A SUTIF AL HIRSHA BURED A three-pointer with barely a second left to lift the Montalvo Jewels to a thrilling 66-63 escape over the TeleTech Titans in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Ultimate Sports Center.

Mogarto suddenly gave solace from the left corner with seven tenths of a second remaining, capped a mighty comeback by the Jewels from eight points down with the 6-foot-6 import.

The win, first overall in nine games, booted the Jewels back into the final with elimination in Hino.

"In the stretch that we needed, I got Mogarto to," said coach Sol Perez of the 5-foot-7 point guard, who scored a game-high 17 points on a 5-of-5 shooting clip that featured the cut.

"The final play was not for him but he was the shot and nailed it. He really nailed the rebound the players showed it."

It was the only straight loss in a 2-0 end for the Titans, who threw a huge kind for the second straight game.

Alex Compton contributed 14 points for Montalvo, including a key triple with 46.3 ticks left that got the Jewels back in the fight.

In the second game, Unitary Snows clinched an outing and ousted host 68-61. 41 victory against no one of city Mayor Emilio Lee Cornejo also.

Leaving on a balanced assault, the Unity Lions used their first lead to cook wins for a fourth loss 5-4 record.

"It was a big win against Magnolia. We had a good game. Double to our defense," said Emilio coach Ariane Gaza.

Pedri Magnolia, unable to buy a basket, Cranny Cesar teamed to a 32-0 advantage into the second quarter.

The Spinners, who started a tough 16 points in the first half, slipped to 4-5.

Larry Santagan opened the fourth period with seven straight points to push the Jewels ahead, 54-52.

Germany joins RP Open Badminton

GERMANY, Thailand aren't related signed up for the first Mega Bowl-sized Philippine Open Badminton Championships, bringing to 16 the number of teams that have confirmed their participation in the inaugural staging of the event beginning May 29 at the Philsports Arena, Ka-bawan, the world's No. 4 before singles player is expected to lead Germany's force the $150,000 prize-payment that has attracted Malaysia, Singapore, India, Canada, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, England, Vietnam, Australia and host Philippines. For details, contact Joel Maranang at...(63) 895-98/9222 or e-mail address, 4th@yahoo.com and agrapa@philpost.com.ph.

FEU spikers demolish UE

By Mary Anthony Reyes

THE EASTERN LOT 26 BIG POINTS FROM Mary Ann Morado and the Lady Tamaraws were on overdrive to overcast University of the East, 25-22, 22-25, 25-11, 25-16, last night for their first victory in the Shakey's V-League in the Star Eagle Cup.

Morado, the 22-year-old Bicolana captain, climaxed with reckless abandon and got 20 of her total from hills as the Eastern bounced back from an opening game loss to Letrans, 20-24, 25-22, 19-25, 25-19, 15-13.

Rachel Ann Daquis provided ample support, accounting for another 14 points, while Wendy Ann Cabahug delivered 13 points, most of them on spikes, as FEU passed the site in one hour and 39 minutes.

Also contributing for the Lady Tams were Ma. Josephine Cabanos, who had 10 points, and Irene Camille Alonzo, who chipped in with nine.

The Lady Warriors brought the Lady Tams (ng) somewhat in the second set to level the match at a one-all before eventually losing for the second straight time.

Suzanne Nocos led the Lady Warriors with 14 points. Catherine Bunag also scored 10 numbers, while Cecille Genilo and Jacqueline Cruz each scored five points (13, 1815) apiece from Lawrence Rentuala.

Iligan tackles Montaña five

ILIGAN CITY—THE MINDANAO SENIORS semifinals of the NE Dennis Uichalo Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference began today with top seed Iligan City Sporting Jewels' coach Mercedes Dimaculangan in command. One of their best-of-three series with the MSU-IIT Tigs starting at 6:30 p.m.

Iligan of Mayor Lawrence Cruz topped the elimination round with a 7-1 win-loss card. Montalvo of Armando Oxford finished with an even 4-4 record. Along the way Iligan defeated Montalvo twice—90-65 last Feb. 26 at the MSU-IIT Gym and 104-97 in overtime in Mawang, Baldivis last April 6.

Expect enhanced with the Mindanao Christian's top tier scorers seeing action in the games backed by Mt. Rosario Dulala, Columbus Shipping Lines, Ateneo Basketball, Mawang Wines, Bukidnon Resources and Subjects Lines.

Iligan has the top three scorers in the Mindanao Division in forwards Alex Bugtai (17.7 ppg) and Marvin Tandag (16.7 ppg) and center Erdone Asuncion (16.7 ppg) plus a fourth scoring threat in ground Charlie (13.7 ppg).

Montalvo Coach Dodong Cagayonong will counter with Montalvo's fourth and fifth best scorers in forward Slade Ayam (15.3 ppg) and team captain Randy Pamoso (14.6 ppg). Center Philip Cabahug and guard Ryan Alonso have also put up good games early.

Game Two will be at the Paradise City Gym in Davao del Norte on May 3. If needed, the series goes back to the MSU-IIT Gym for Game Three on May 13.

Second seed Dadiñan Gerilaw (5-2) of hosting Mid Mawang Bagsakan and third seed Pryor Pharmacia Mart's (4-4) of SPMA clash, Gov. Oscar Moreno Neighborhood team host of three semifinals on May 4 at the Liguasi Gym.

Meanwhile, the Montreal Traders complete their scoring of Mariners Maestros when they meet the Toyota Hobe. The Iloilo Basketball League-backed Phantom guy for their first win while the Traders of Mayor Thadeo Ouano hope to fortify their Marjun Tabuloc semifinal chances. The Traders were battling the Most Negros College Mariners at the Mawang City Gym set to play from last night.

We have a winner

SPECTATOR

ALS. Mendoza

A PRESIDENTIAN REPORTS THE NEXT contract could be signed.

That's Manny Pacquiao, in case you've been living under.

And you, true fan, Pacquiao will defeat Mexico's Oscar Larios by knockout.

Larios is taller (5-ft) for Pacquiao since the Mexican loves to fight low to his. Larios having thrown the most punches (1,100 in a single round in the 12th) this time—struck 3,820!—is a victim Pacquiao welcomes with open arms. It could easily mean one thing: Larios loves to fight...a perfect trait that Pacquiao wears like armor.

What round the knockout is going to happen, Pacquiao isn't saying.

"No predictions for me," said Pacquiao in Filipino during the press conference announcing the fight on Friday at ABS-CBN studios. "Only God will answer and only angels watching the fight. It's for you, my beloved countrymen."

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's American trainer, praises Pacquiao's line.

"He isn't saying what round it's going to end," said Roach, the only man who's gone head to toe fight moments. On closer matters, know that to Shelley Finkel, Pacquiao's wealthy American manager who doesn't think twice putting his round to an opponent bored under, "Manny Pacquiao! and all. Just before a fight.

"The fight is for 12 rounds," said Roach. "Relevant for every single round. Every round could be a knockout round."

If need you, you will can't believe Roach, you better start believing.

Roach is one reluctant to be helped pull the Pacquiao's new power. Predictably a pure favorite, Pacquiao has instincts' planned into a stylist; you save that in full blame in the last Morales fight, right?

Combine power and style and you have a perfect fighter in Pacquiao, so most in the world already of such greats like Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvelous Marvin Hagler and, to a certain extent, Oscar De La Hoya.

But more than that, it is Roach's humble career that has transformed Pacquiao into a mean, killing machine step during. There is no single person other than Roach that has influenced Pacquiao's comeback on fight strategies the last five years or so.

So, when talks flew solid and Dark then Pacquiao report made in the 12th for the Latino fight, Roach, true to his calling, quickly made his move. He found all the more available flight to Manila and, just hours upon landing, made Pacquiao change his mind.

So said Sorel Pacquiao deciding to train in the US for viciously studied dozen for Larios. It is, to use a much-abused cliché, a line of death for the Mexican.

Every person has a weakness. Pacquiao is a lover of life. He loves life's perks such as the good wine, which is lost normally for one with a friendly and, angry and hungry childhood.

If prone mentioning led to 14 one midnight a millionaire at under 30, only you could. Hector Macapaz II, at times if not oftentimes, he indulges and goes hang-hang hard and goes hang-hang there...if you know what I mean.

More to the point, Pacquiao loves billiards, cockfighting and late night binges on pleasures both good and bad. And you, also wine and more—again, if you know what I mean. All that is an athlete's paragon to self-destruction, a boxer's carefree prone if taken to excess which Pacquiao is prone to doing with Roach not close by. Thus, should Congress make Roach a Filipino, why, there'll be justified sins from it's done.

With Roach around, we have a winner in Pacquiao 99.99 percent of the time.

So to the moneyed, powered and even more your tickets now for that classy brigade seat at the Araneta Coliseum on May 29.

Buying?

Well, I'll put the queue for that precious first ticket at general admission offered by ABS-CBN. Just say where, what time and where, and I'll come running.

Now, if Peter Mungi may boldly, puzzled still underlining the premium on Friday) grants to be saintly prey more and tickle me to pick up my two tickets at a Shangri-La's Boni Foundation under, I'll gladly do it. For the record, I promise to give one ticket to a set of 13 or more from the BF Foundation who may personally Pacquiao for role-model.

Best bonus, I'll offer to chaperone the lucky daughter.

No implied.

***

PAHIMAKAS. The 73-Iloilo Sports Foundation will hold the Manila basketball's Tennis tendering open prayers of their 300 Indianpolis, on May 2-28 at Bonifacio-on-Caroline. Read: Hikers Ball Fiesta, Hikers, Gaspard Hiker Shop and The Manila Times are supporting the tennis camp now on its eighth year. Call Lei Gregorio at (046) 420-0200 or Monica Llanos Tenorio at (632) 9241-9622, (632) 9193-4851 for more details. Please pray for the soul of Paul Bellows, the kind-hearted husband of my sister, Cherry Bolinao Chan. He is the daughter of my Atty. Leandro Bolinao Cabanag, Quezon, died Wednesday (April 13) and his remains lie at St. Peter during Quezon Blvd., QC. Interment has yet to be announced.

***

Comments to mvreyes@philstar.net

Olivarez, Ho gain

TOP SEED SHARNIE OLIVAREZ AND SECOND seed Jessica Ho-Ho overwhelmed their opponents today to advance to the girls' 12-under finals of the 2004 Nike's Age Group Tennis Championships at the Metropolitan Club in Makati City.

Olivarez dismissed Misty Gonzales, 6-0, 6-2, while Ho-Ho routed host Joana Brito, 7-6 (7), 6-2.

In the girls' 14-under division, Olivarez once again outclassed Martina Cuba, 6-1, 6-2, to advance to the semifinals against Claire Barrientos, who scored a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Irina Quintanilla. Also advancing were No. 2 Trudy Dino Santamaria, who won by default over Aaron Salgado, and Christine Pachoncay, 6-0, 6-2 winner over hostess Jane Lim.

In the girls' 16-under class, No. 1 Regina Santiago downed Clarice Bautista, 7-5, 7-5, 6-1, No. 2 Elaine Quijano outlasted host Irina Quintanilla, 6-0, 6-1, hostess Jane Lim prevailed over Christine Bautista, 6-2, 6-0, to earn semifinal berths in this event supported by Prince, Mitsubishi, Equitpt, Kampuli, Nissan and Powerbar.

In the boys' 14-under category, No. 2 Ralph Rafer defeated Russel Quintanilla, 6-0, 7-5, and Johnnell Salvador outlasted Jonathan Cabrera, 7-5, 1-6, 6-1, to win James Murrell and Jeff Carreon in the semifinals. Winners in the boys' 16-under division were No. 1 Mark Rafer over Rainer Reyes, 6-2, 6-0, Phillip Arevalo over John Guevarra, 6-1, 6-3, Vito Balbuena over Carlo Tolibi, 6-0, 6-0, and Jonathan Murrell over Jean Feliz Regis, 4-6, 6-0, 17-15.

In the boys' 12-under division, top seed Elmo Valenzuela defeated Prince Salvacion, 6-1, 6-, to advance to the semis against Ayalbo Orbe Cruz, 6-2, 6-3, winners over Angelo Romero Antonio Garcia, 6-2, 6-3, respectively. Also moving to the 6-3, 6-3, advance against Jean Alfonso Opulencia, who defeated Jesse Allan Alburo, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

Boxing Kontra Drogs

THE BOXING CONTRA DROGS PARTIDO NG THE road will be held today, starting 8 p.m. at the Activity Center of Bonifacio Quarters and Quezon City. The fight card, presented by Boxing Commissioner Mariano Cuneta, Jr. features eight Contender Matches: Laureano Alfonso Olympian Rey Richard on Yoko and Antonio Tarvis against Jose Gonzalez.

RP pugs enter Comet Cup

MARTINEZ

Jose Rizal bombs Far Eastern

THE JOSE RIZAL HEAVY BOMBERS scored their second straight win in the Filoil Preseason Cup Solo Basketball League after blasting Far Eastern University, 8, this AM... yesterday at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

Jose Rizal held the Tamaraws to only 21 points in the first half and shot at a steady rate from the perimeter to take hold of its entry to 20 points in the third and count in the win.

"We were able to turn our opponents' defensive points that went in the game, JRU coach Chot Calinog said.

The Tamaraws fell behind early, 13-19, and a 20-6 surge by the Bombers got the job done for Jose Rizal.

Ace guard JR Jones spearheaded the Bombers' 1-1 22-point advantage in leading the final encounters much of the

Triple Crown hopes clash; 7 big races up

By Herseng B. Castillo

GAMBOA, CAVITE—FOUR bright hopes in the coming Triple Crown series see action today in one of eight special races that will end the 42nd Manila Founders' Cup Racing Festival at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Speedball Million Dollar is to be owned by Jonathan Hernandez, and jockey Kingly Bonanzan are hosted in the Governor Generoso Cup, a 1,800-metre race spanning prospective Triple Crown bets serving as one of the day's highlights.

Irish The Younger (CF Largosa, Jr.), the promising three-year-old bay colt, and Blessing Mine (AR Almonte Jr.), an entry from the recorded Red Wildlife, are the other two entries in the race that makes P300,000 the winner.

The first leg of the prestigious series, run on May 14, is considered a win-or-place affair. Failing pursued, the top Triple Crown hopeful this year may squeeze an eleventh hitch to take out from [illegible]

Race 1—(Tri-Cor Tour (2), Money Is Key (1), Win Bet (3)

Race 2—(Pinda Girl (1), Lucky Tree (4), top Dad (5), Rich and Famous (8), Tenzan Island (7), King's Day (3)

Race 3—(Let The Game With the Best (2), Indian Boy (8), Prime Minister (1), Triple Power (2)

Race 4—(2013 Sovereign's Dance (8), Color C. The Wind (5), 1001 (2) Lucky (7), Fashion Victim (3), [illegible]

Race 5—(2013 Alexis (3), Mr. Victory (1), Mind To Find (7), Sollie's Hand (6)

Race 6—(Million Dollar (4), Be Strong (2), Skye (3)

Race 7—(Pat [illegible]), (2013) (5)—Rather Land (6), Mr. Maroon (2), Leave Me Dazed (4), Easy Queen (1), Count the Wipes (3), Connection (8), Tapas (6), Action (3), Sollie's Royal (7)

Race 8—(Irish The Younger (2), Blessing Mine (1), Speedball Million Dollar (3), Lucky Play (5)

Race 9—(Gentle Tri, Win Bet (6), Bellamy's Magic (4), Cool Game (2), Power Of The Wind (3), [illegible] (5)

Race 10—(2013) Special Edition (2), Golden Connection (4), Tapas (6), Action (3), Sollie's Royal (7)

Race 11—(Hide Out Tri, Lucky Play (5), Cool Game (2), Power Of The Wind (3), [illegible] (5)

Race 12—(Silver's Wealth (3), Lightning Strike (2), Sweet Talk (2)

Race 13—(Super 6/8/9/Tri, Columbine Girl (4), El Cid (6), Play It Right (3), Kiss Me Gold (2), Midnight (1), Ayesha Godfather (8)

REYES

Reyes heads Team RP in Asian 9-Ball

CANADA-BASED ALEX "THE LION" PAGULAYAN joins Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante as spearheads of the country's bid in the 2006 San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball tour which kicks off May 5-7 at the Nguyen Du Sports Hall in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Modest "Marvelous" Manalo, a semifinalist in last year's world pool championship, completes the registries four-man RP squad in the annual competition which has attracted top Asian cue masters including reigning world champion and 14-time-ball Wu Chia-ching of Chinese Taipei.

Billiards patron Amino "Pardy" Perez said he is optimistic the Filipinos will perform well.

"Our players have good chances. But I expect the Taiwanese to give them a rough fight" said Perez, organizer of the just-concluded Eastern Asian-ladies 8-Ball tour which had its launch World Women's Champion Gee Ga-young of South Korea dominated.

Pagulayan (2004) and Reyes (1999) are former world champion with Bustamante placing second in the 2002 edition behind Earl Strickland of the United States. Manalo, who has two national championships to his credit, is competing in the Asian Tour for the first time.

Manalo-young but Manalo, on the other hand, the 2005 Filipino lone semifinalist survivor in the World Championship aims to give a good fight so that the Filipinos can win the four other tours of Asian 9-ball tour includes Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Johannesburg.

With a total pot of $340,000 (the event, organized by ESPN One Sports, will go to Bangkok for the second leg on June 2-4, Kuala Lumpur for the third leg on Aug. 4-6 and Jakarta the fourth leg on Sept. 15-17. Matches this year also

Platon-Garcia heads Tuason Cup winners

BAR PLATON AND HIS PARTNER MANUEL Garcia combined for a two-day aggregate of 135 to capture the overall title in the Don Celso Tuason Centennial Cup, the members sport tournament of the Valley Golf and Country Club held recently.

Platon and Garcia accumulated 51 points at the championship ninth course and one stableford 67 score over the last nine holes (the total at 135 total which proved to be the highest among the overall cast of 432 teams.

The other champions were Raoul Jorge and Benjamin Solato in Division 1, Alvin Cayetano and Aida Cuda in Division II, Antonio Ocampo and Ricardo Ocampo in III, Luis Frayer Jr. Cuda in Division IV and Wenceslao Santos-Aurora Jose Gonzales/Arnold Chua and Eddy Villa topped the sponsors' side.

Emerging as the big winners were candidates Gomez Burgos and Dennis Hernandez who have been in the respective courts. Gomez Burgos used the 12th and won a Club Car Evolve Go worth more than P200,000 while Dennis Hernandez scored a hole-in-one on the eighth and won an Amazon revolver plus P50,000 in cash from ICC Commissions.

Showing the two-day tournament of the event commemorating the 100th birthday of Don Celso Tuason were Valley president Louis Reyes, Bob Tuason and organizing committee head Joey Lallosbong.

MercedesTrophy tilt coming to RP

AFTER BEING STAGED IN EIGHT ASIAN countries the past 15 years, the Mercedes Trophy golf tournament finally comes to the Philippines next month.

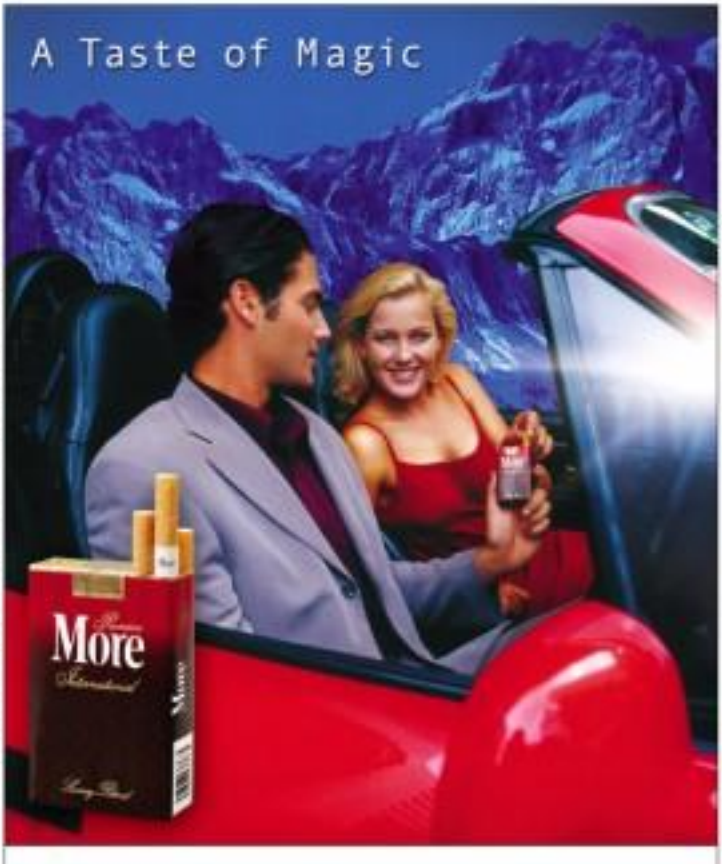
Mercedes-Benz Philippines exclusive dealership Cars Philcom Inc., with promoters Smart Union and Golfing Pacific Assistes, will host the 1st Mercedes Trophy Philippines 2006 the national elimination round of the premium golf tournament held worldwide since 1996.

Ms. Rhea Golf Club's par-72, 6,499 yard Metro Manila course will host more than a hundred Mercedes-Benz owners in the 18-hole event on May 14.

"It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce, for the first time, this prestigious and elite Mercedes-Trophy International," Cars Motors Inc. chair Gregorio T. Yu said president Felix S. Ang said yesterday. "We expect this to be a milestone in the history of Philippine golf for our Mercedes who are passionate about their game and their cars."

Forest Hills Inv'l slated May 18-21

THE SIMULATED TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD MAY 18-21 at the Forest Hills Golf and Club in Antipolo City with 120 first round players expected to participate. All pro-Am of the Jack Nicklaus course will make host to executives ranging from a brand new Honda Accord 2007 Nike golf wear, golf balls, and a DVD for "President" golf set. Attractive raffle prizes, including a Plasma TV, will be raffled off during the awarding ceremony. Registration starts May 7. For details, call Ria Nieto at 567-1341 to 45.



WILLY Miller steals the show in the 4-th shot and obstacle competition during the PBA All Star in Cagayan de Oro.

NBA Legends preparing harder for RP Team

By Francis Cohan

FOR SO LONG, COACH CHOT REYES' TEAM HAS been looking for a chance to show just how far it has grown.

REYES

"There's the irony there," said Reyes. "We have a team that's really ready and very much capable of representing the country. But we can't find any place to play in."

It seems little legend-to-be-ed may leave Filipinos basketball sore to pinpoint as warned.

Tomorrow, the squad goes up against Taiwan Beermen and the rest of the crew of the "Asia" team, which is making sure it will put forward its best four against some of the top PBA players/players to-be scouting.

The two teams collide at 5:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum and despite the big, recognizable names dotting the US roster, Reyes has managed to coax past the glitter and recognize where the threat in his team will come from.

"It's basically Beerman, who's in very good game shape, and the four players from the NBA Development League (NBDL)," Reyes said.

The NBA standouts include Eric Betrolini, who dropped different dunks on the way to 13-point effort against Sea Hawks' scoring all-star squad composed of retired professional basketball stars. There's here's Hyman Allen, who contributed 20 and Chad Willerson, who dropped in with 18.

"They can shoot, run the floor and dominate inside. And if push comes to shove, they have the resources to provide the experience if the game calls for it."

The veterans include Otis Birdsong, Sidney Moncrief, Darryl Dawkins and Hall-of-Famers Alex English and Calvin Murphy, who have been invited to practice in anticipation of a tough match against Filipino Basketball.

Cebu three witnessed frustrate and company mark the San Miguel team, 126-99.

"The time there had a magnificent time," said Manila Mythology, president of the organizing Gilas Fund Sports.

And Reyes believes it's time for fans to see what his team can do.

"Basically, we want to convince the idea that our program is still on track despite the obstacles and adversities coming our way," Reyes said.

Former MVPs Asi Taulava and Willie Miller, Alaska's Jeff Adducci and Mike Cortez, ex-U/e Benchies Rhoads, Talk 'N 'Text's Jimmy Alapag and Magnolia ace Kelly Williams lead the roster.

Game is at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are still available through Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Pagadian thwarts Laguna-Sta. Rosa

TACLOC CITY—ASTER SABIO Gets visiting Pagadian Explorers smash hard for the second half to score back the winless Laguna-Sta. Rosa Pirates, 75-68, and improve their record to 3-2 Friday night in the 2006 Governors Brandy MBC-Continental Basketball championship at the C.P. Tinga gymnasium.

Adrian Cuap sparked the Explorer comeback from a 36-39 halftime deficit, finishing with 19 points, 13 rebounds, four steals and three blocks to emerge as the game's lone player.

But Dalo, six-pace Irong Alcazar and Peter Ramos and PBL veteran Leo Gonzalez also played hands-on push the Explorers ahead for good, 60-59, Magsa Joey Kennedy.

With Alex Stevens and Jason Alexander hitting their strokes, the Heroes dominated the first 20 minutes.

But Dalo, six-pace Irong Alcazar and Peter Ramos and PBL veteran Leo Gonzalez also played hands-on push the Explorers ahead for good, 60-59, going into the final period.

The scores:

PAGADIAN (9 – Cuap 19, Alcazar 9, Ramos 11, Gonzalez 9, Dalo 10, Rosa 8, Avila 2, Lanot 2, Ipak 7

LAGUNA (8) – Flores 11, Alcazar 11, Pua 3, Barrogue 7, Santiago 6, Alcazar 3, Bernardo 5, de Ocampo 6, Agustin 2, Lanot 2

Quarters: 20-37, 39-59, 60-68, 75-68

SPORTSWATCH

Asingan blockfest rolls off April 30

THE ANNUAL ASINGAN, PANGASINAN, BASKETBALL BLOCKFEST WILL BE HELD TODAY IT WILL mean a showcase of 12 blockbusting all-star like District teams of Pangasinan.

Scheduled for the 10th Anglican Church grounds, it will feature 8 all-female Pangasinan party, including the undefeated Pagsca team led by 2006 Marlboro Eco Filter Filipino Lopez, Lloyd Reynaldo, defending champion Albert Primero and the Pitfield Boys of Bay Garcia. A total cash prize of P50,000 also awaits and overall will be set aside with the champion getting P 15,000. All participants will be given T-shirts while all are invited to call get P500.

North York sports program May 2

THE ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH OPENING OF THE NORTH YORK ALL SEASONS Multi-Sport Summer Games is May 2 at the North York Sports Complex at 10 Cummer Avenue. Call Gregory Hall, Project 6 Coordinator City NW2 area coordinator and 500 Harrison St. Cummer, at , and the event aims to provide youngsters with rounded training and guided way of spending their vacation. The multi-week program begins with a nationwide and grand acquaintance party to be attended by local government authorities, school officials and community leaders. Activities include sports clinics in basketball, volleyball and badminton. Aside from the summer youth program, enrollment for high school and preschool is going on. For inquiries, call 807-4121 or 667-4004, Monday to Saturday.

Stockinger out to set mark in Batangas

KUANTAN, MALAYSIA—FOLLOWING HIS RECORD PERFORMANCE IN Malaysia, first host driver Marion Stockinger hopes to storm his mark as the 2006 Shell Helix ONE Superbike Series begins its second leg today at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Tuscany, Batangas. In other divisions of Shell Helix Superport and Motor Scooter, Filipino drivers will fight for the Philippine championship at the Petron Max Genesis cream in the kickoff leg of the 2006 Asian Zone Racing Sport Championships at the Shah Alam Circuit in Malaysia. After bringing home honors for the country seven Times Passaquin, who captured the Elite 2 OK Cubers, John Ulysses of the Cebu Racing Group, who finished in seven up in the Junior 100 division; Pedro Gonzales, who finished fourth in the Mini 85 and Rookie 85 division and Christine Ann Gaite Eli class. Stockinger hopes to surpass his third place finish in the Cagayan kickoff leg and put up a strong fight against first leg champion Marlon Zaide with each team to battle in the combined formula 125 and Rookie Mini Genesis class.

Fisterama, Golf Power today

FISTERAMA FEATURES TWO ALL-STAR BOXING BOUTS BETWEEN DAVE Arnelos and Kevin de la Cruz in the light flyweight division and the 55 round bout between Ray Mitchell and Jerry Corbajal in the super bantamweight division. Both bouts are scheduled for tonight's Fisterama Boxing Show at the Philippine Sports Stadium in Bocaue, Bulacan. Tickets are available at the Mall 54 and Boxer's Inn Gym in Malolos, Bulacan. Tomorrow is known through SBD CBN Global's The Alpine Challenge Pinoy Contest 'N' and RPM-3 Golf Power Plus featuring the 8th Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf Championships aim at 21 o.c.

All Breed Dog Show at Eagle Ridge

FOREIGN JUDGES WILL BE ON HAND TO CHOOSE THE WINNERS OF TODAY'S Santa Carolina Club Inc. All Breed Dog Show at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Golf Course in Cavite. Judges Mrs. Ann Bowen of Australia and Mrs. Ann Gaddis of Santa Teresa, Bicol and Pampanga and up for as Fabia and Bella are participating in the event starting at 8 a.m. at the basketball court beside the Family Sports Clubhouse of the 100-hectare Eagle Ridge. Admission is free and spectators will be able to take some memorable time. Commissioner, Lieutenant, German Shepherds, Shi-Tzu, Pomeranian and many more, according to Santa Carolina Club president Lito Cantor Jr. He said that three foreign judges who are all endorsed of the breed dog shows in the world—Helena Clemens, Florita de Vega and Dr. Hernandez Jr.— have agreed to be the event. The Santa Carolina Club Dog Show is one of the highlights of the summer celebration at Eagle Ridge, which boasts facilities for basketball, bowling, badminton, tennis, swimming. Athletic suits from its clubmembership courses.

Las Pinas holds cockfest today

A MISCELLANEOUS COCKING EXHIBITION AT THE FELIX Y. MANALO COCKPIT ARENA AT Zapote Bridge in Las Pinas City will be held today. Cocks going at 1 with 10 fights lined up. It will be an exciting showdown of feisty fighters from Cavite, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Las Pinas and Pasay, said host Cherry Bustamante who said an overall purse of P300,000 for the winners. Call (02) 5-1045 and 874-0000 for details. Meanwhile, PC volunteer manager Atty. Sidney said that regular bantamweight are scheduled from Monday to Sunday. A bonus of P1,000 per win (Bird 20 refunds) only) will be given away. Directions: Alabang-Zapote Bridge Las Pinas Exit to the Alabang-Zapote Bridge Las Pinas Exit to the cockpit arena.

SJC 3-cocker submission of weights

OFFICIAL ENTRIES TO SAN JUAN COCKERS MATCH UPCOMING 3-COCK DERBY must be submitted today from 2-5 p.m. in 8 p.m. Sponsor in Sagupan Compadres 2006. To be hosted by Barangay Kinarap Mandaluyong, the derby kicks off tomorrow with a guaranteed prize of P300,000 on the line. Allen Mendoza is the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) in-cock derby on May 7. The Bonanza ILC 3-Cock International Derby will be staged on June 5, 7 and 9. All the participants will be designated as hosts and will receive half of derby proceeds. For details, call 725-9000 and 725-5000 and 287-1 4000 001 0000.

Spanish football experts holding coaching course

HERNANDEZ

LOCAL FOOTBALL coaches will again benefit when Spanish trainers conduct the PFF-Andalucia 'B' Youth Coaching Course from May 22 to June 1 in Metro Manila.

Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez announced recently that Spain's national football Association and the Philippine Football Federation are working hand in hand with the Office of Sec. Edgardo Angara to guarantee the success of the project.

That will be the second time that the three groups have cooperated to bring Spanish coaching expertise into the framework of local football. A successful Spanish coaching course was similarly staged last year in Metro Province.

The Andalucia B coaching is made up of Juan Jose Guerra Murillo, Francisco Lopez Servin, Manuel Lopez Lopez, Jose Carlos Jaimez Sanchez, Luis Freidas Olmedo and Maria de Nieto Posadas.

Topics for the coaching course are on technology and sports technology, physical training, technique, sport organization and rules of the game, tactics and direction of equipment.

Fifty youth development coaches from provincial football associations of the PFF have been given slots as part of the PFF's initiative to upgrade the standard of its provincial teams of football excellence.

RYDM in action

Girls Nat'l football tourney ready for San Carlos kickoff

JESSICA DYAN, THE FROLIFIC 16-year old striker of Kindredville International School in Las Piñas City will be one of the most patrolled and mentored girls in the 1st PFF National Women's Under-15 Championship that will be held from May 6-13 in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

The versatile member 7 player also a member of the Ursita girl's football club, is playing with the Muntinlupa-Batangas Las Piñas (MBL) selection appearing for the first time in a Philippine Football Federation tournament. Tasks from Mendiola School, April of Mentes College and Bonus of De La Salle Zobel are three other players reported to contribute to MBL campaign. They are currently hosting their skills in a Visayas training football camp.

PFF's Bobbi Arnaiz, vouns seven representatives of the women's under-17, said that the 12 provinces entered in the event were divided into three groups.

The inaugural games pit Cebu against Mindoro and Davao against Bukidnon in Group A, Iloilo-Bacolod against Iloilo-Guimaras takes on Negros Oriental in Group B. Cagayan de Oro-misamis Oriental and the match of the day home team Negros Occidental from the winners of the Muntinlupa-Batangas Las Piñas selection.

The event is an undertaking of the San Carlos City Football Club, the Negros Occidental Football Association and the Office of the Mayor of the City of San Carlos. It is headed by PFF sponsor committee Bad Ribbon Bakeshop, Ice and Sirena.

Ramrod FC, Juventud win opening matches

RAMROD SC AND JUVENTUD lead the opening day winners has conducted in the Wed RIPLAAN Premier league football champs. Ramrod SC at the Ramrod field at Apalo Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Anchored by Pete Nonaldez, son of former PBA superstar Ramon Nonaldez, Ramrod shut out Tabanan, 4-0, while Juventud, escorting Incorporated players and coach Rodolfo Alicante, crushed Ina Bella Mallorca, 9-0, in the event co-sponsored by Real and Siemens.

Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, national team's and women's team manager Evan Hernandez, Gay Bonnaddez, Ayala Alabang Village managers and Carlos Real, la, president of the organizing Muntinlupa Panchague Las Piñas football Association, graced the opening of the tournament aimed at renewing football activity in the area.

Housewife, mechanic join PTCC opener

IS HOUSEWIFE, A MECHANIC AND a fisherman spend an evening the entire race of 32 drivers vying for the 6-lite at stake when the first Ilog Gilbert Pereira Race Cup of the Philippine Touring Car Championship 2006 unfolds May 7 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Member Francisco is a number of three who's so join and prepare that overlooking a new her vocation into a racing member since she's behind the wheel of her own car. Her passion for speed and fast cars was influenced by her husband, top sidliter driver Eddie Bautista.

Pacho Blanco was a quality tuner of horsepower for years but his racing felt caught up with him and he started competitive racing last year. The duration proved worthwhile as he bagged the Red 1 cup.

Eli Cuepo is a fisherman who came on who's not usually found on the water. But he chooses to pursue to race on dirt or came so it takes him year with the help of Antonino.

These are just three of the interesting personalities introduced during the media launch of the 2006 PTCC season Friday night at the Greyt's Grill and Promenade Pulilan here in Greenhills. They will be vying for the crown in the Group 1 division of this event sponsored by Ina Silgard Corp., Petron, TMC, Garrys Inc., Mazda, Michelin, Motorsight Bodyhits, SBI, Gadgets, ATC Tools, Anyhats, The Philippine Star, 97.9 Home Radio, 93.5 Jack FM, 89.1 RT, and autoindustriya.com.

The 17 cause Arch in the Group 3 division includes top favorites Lily Hontiveros of Fujiplaza, last year's third placer and ophthalmologist Peewee Mendiola of Ilig Golf Racing along with teammate Arjan Medina, Honda's manager model Jeff Bonje and lady drivers Lorr Uy of Velocity Motors and Erika Morales of Shell Nasing.

This year also marks the debut of hosting champion and image model Marites Gatchalian, who's expected to be a big crowd drawer of the event as he uses his driving skills for the first time in touring cars.

Also in the Group 3 division is Jon Mark Ong who emerged as the 2005 Street Drivers of the Year. Unfortunately, Ong may miss the first two legs as his new honda car is still being prepared for the competition.

But the main focus of the racing series duly nominated by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) in the Group 1 division where eight-time champion Andy Gaerlan and co-Miguel Ang Motorsight will have tough competition not only against rivals Eddie and Louie Bautista of Petron-SBI but also against Ilocos Member of Shell Racing who scored up to Group 1 other finishing the overall Group 3 place last season.

ROGIE FERRER CUP: Organizers of the Regie Ferrer 'Cup senior ladies' invitational golf tournament on May 24 at the Executive course of the Valley Golf & Country in Antipolo City are ready to discuss the event's format. From left: Divina Lizardo, Susie Orgabio, Noori Cortez, Merette Seco and Nelle Cruz. The event sponsored by Ferrer, the LCI Lions Dinner track and Petron is ready golfers of all ages were as a member of "AVGAP members.

Lakers put Suns in a black hole

LA-Phoenix series puts MVP race in spotlight

LOS ANGELES—ARE WE SURE THIS MVP race is over?

Safe to say the Most Valuable Player award have been clinched for the NBA regular season. The winner won't be announced for a while, probably after the first round. Of course, that doesn't stop sweepstakes from stuffing around for weeks.

Steve Nash, who has finished first Phoenix's run will be named MVP for the second season in a row, with Kobe Bryant of the Lakers somewhere in a group of runners-up with LeBron James, Dirk Nowitzki and Chauncey Billups.

The argument for Nash, the league's assist leader, over Bryant, the scoring leader, is that Nash does more of that making his teammates stuff that points lose.

But here's the thing: What if Bryant's team beats Nash's in the first round?

"Unclear!" Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"You always have a flexibility discussion: whether it's Kobe or Chauncey Billups or Steve or LeBron James – you can go right down the list," D'Antoni said. "Is there deserving? Oh, yeah. Is Nash? Absolutely. I happen to like my guy."

Well, there's the official word, and there's the most reliable opinion.

Issue us, Lakers, Nash vs. Kobe, it being played for that jury.

It wouldn't be the first time, but it would be one of the more dramatic examples of the playoffs providing annotation for the MVP conundrum of fans of a losing Most Valuable Player candidate.

The last time an MVP was knocked out of the first round of the playoffs was in 1979. That was Moses Malone, then of the Houston Rockets, who were bounced by the Atlanta Hawks.

Since then, eight MVPs were handed out of the playoffs in their rounds and three MVPs got a playoff comeuppance against a voting runner-up: Julius Erving, whose Philadelphia 76ers were beaten by Larry Bird's Boston Celtics (1981 conference finals); Bird, whose Celtics were beaten by Magic Johnson's Lakers (1985 Finals); and Karl Malone, whose Utah Jazz was beaten by Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls (1997 NBA finals).

Also, there were Charles Barkley's Suns losing to Jordan's Bulls (1993); David Robinson's San Antonio Spurs losing to Hakeem Olajuwon's Rockets (1995); Allen Iverson's Warriors losing to Shaq's Lakers (2001); and Tim Duncan's Spurs losing to Shaq's and Kobe's Lakers (2002).

Oh, and there was Nash's Suns falling to Duncan's Spurs in last season's West finals.

What this could become, if the Lakers knocked off the Suns, is the first time in a long time that the MVP frontrunner didn't conclude before his MVP-ship is announced.

This series is on. How valuable Players doing their best to win, and as for Kobe it's winning. The ballots may be in, but history's verdict is on the line. – *New York Times News Service*

NBA roundup

SEE BRIEFS – LA Clippers at Denver 10:30 p.m. (cable) • TV

NBA – LA Clippers at Denver 10:30 p.m. (cable) • Altitude (Sports)

SAD 'EM AND WEEP: A steady performance by the Los Angeles Lakers' Jr. Stapler Center leaves Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns looking elsewhere for answers. AP

LeBron unstoppable as Cavs trip Wizards; Kings edge Spurs

LOS ANGELES—BALANCED SCORING FROM ALL five starters and an off-night for Phoenix Suns' guard Steve Nash gave the Los Angeles Lakers a 99-92 victory on Friday and a 2-1 lead in their first-round NBA playoff series.

All five Lakers starters had at least 13 points, led by guard Smush Parker's 18. Luke Walton had 17 points and 11 rebounds and the NBA's leading scorer Kobe Bryant had 27 points and seven assists.

Lamar Odom pulled down 17 rebounds and blocked three shots along with his 15 points. Center Kwame Brown also blocked three shots, had 11 rebounds and scored 13 points.

Nash ended with 17 points, but was sluggish in the first half when he had only three points. He ended the game 7-of-16 on field goal shooting, but was only 1-of-7 in the first half.

He finished with 11 assists, at his league-leading average per game.

The Lakers, a seventh seed in the lofty Western Conference, will host the Suns, the second seed, in Game four on Sunday at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.

Bryant led the league in scoring with 35.4 points per game and scored less than half that on Friday. Walton, with 8-of-13 shooting, had more field goal attempts than Bryant, who was 9-of-18 from the floor.

Lakers Coach Phil Jackson said before the series is over Bryant may take over offensively.

"Right now I think he is moving the ball and doing the right thing for us, getting everyone involved in the offense – the extensive passing was really good tonight," said Jackson.

Bryant, who scored 81 points in a game in January, said he's happy with the team play and balanced scoring.

"We are just playing so well together," he said. "We are sending the ball home. We're executing, moving the ball and spacing. Everyone's out and that is what basketball is all about. It is fun to be a part of."

In Sacramento, Kevin Martin tipped in the winning basket just as time expired, giving the Sacramento Kings a thrilling 94-93 win over the San Antonio Spurs.

In the other game, LeBron James scored 41 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Washington Wizards, 99-86, to take command of their series.

Martin pulled the Kings to their unlikely victory over the defending NBA champions from a last break lay-up over Tim Duncan that sank just as the final buzzer sounded in the Western Conference showdown.

The dramatic basket came after Shane Battier missed the ball as a drive with less than seven seconds left.

Mike Bibby then quickly passed the ball to Martin, who helped the Kings earn their series deficit to 2-1, after Sacramento lost its overtime to Game Two.

"I just threw it up and hoped it went in," Martin told reporters.

After the victory in Washington, the Cavaliers lead the best-of-seven Eastern Conference quarterfinal 2-1 and have regained homecourt advantage after Jamaal Magloire's winning basket with 3.7 seconds remaining. – *Reuters*

Grizzlies' Miller wins Sixth Man Award

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Miller won the NBA's Sixth Man Award on Friday after making the transition from starter to reserve. Miller led the NBA in scoring off the bench this season, averaging 15.1 points. He ranked second in scoring for the Grizzlies this season (behind Pau Gasol's 17.4 average). He also led the NBA in assists. Miller finished last year and first two seasons playing a lackluster role as the team adjusted to roster changes. Miller, in his sixth season with the NBA and ranks of the year in 2004, is happy with his new assignment. AP

Maddux still perfect; Pujols ties MLB record

NADAL: Chasing record AP

CHICAGO—A 40-YEAR-OLD DOUG MADDUX won his 350th straight start to tie Jr 3-0 starting the season for the first time in his distinguished career as the Chicago Cubs beat the Milwaukee Brewers, 6-2, on Friday.

Carlos Lee hit a two-run double in the seventh inning and was backed by a homer and a strong defensive play from shortstop Ronny Cedeno.

Jacque Jones also homered for the Cubs.

Maddux is 12-3 against the Brewers, representing his best winning percentage against any National League team.

Dave Bush (2-2) leaved six innings, giving up 10 hits and five runs.

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols tied the major league record with his 15th home run in April, but Rich Johnson and Ryan Zimmerman homered in the first inning to lead Washington past St. Louis, 6-2, for the win.

Pujols' drive in the eighth inning came off a 2-0 pitch from Felix Rodriguez, and matched the mark shared by Sam Crawford Jr. in 1907 with Sean Casey and Jose Canseco in 2000 with Arizona. It was Pujols' first homer in four games and left him with two games this month to break the record.

Tony Armas (2-2) worked six solid innings for Washington, which ended a five-game losing streak.

Jason Marquis (1-2) allowed seven runs and eight hits in five innings for the Cardinals.

In San Francisco, Barry Bonds hit a bases-clearing double as rookie Rube Rook for visited on the career list with 1,356 extra-base hits and also singled in a run for his fourth RBI as San Francisco trounced Arizona, 10-2.

Jason Schmidt (1-2) struck out nine in seven strong innings on the way to his first victory of the season and Moises Alou hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs. Bobby Felix and Randy Wilson also threw in runs and Omar Vizquel had three hits and scored twice for the Giants, who snapped Arizona's three-game winning streak.

Bonds, who needs four home runs to pass Hank's 714 for second on the career list, came in the game with the home finished and two runs in the third, forcing Miguel Batista (2-2) to pitch to him. AP

Nadal reaches Open Seat semis

BARCELONA, Spain—TOP SEED RAFAEL Nadal beat Jarkko Nieminen of Finland, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, to move into the semifinals at the Open Seat Godo on Friday and win his 45th straight match on clay.

Guillermo Vilas holds the Open era record on clay with 53 consecutive wins in 1977, while 11-time Grand Slam champion Bjorn Borg is second with 46 straight wins in 1979.

"I didn't want to lose this match for anything in the world," Nadal said. "I think I owe the people today at my best.

"They've been incredible me. It thrills me to think it's there, but we'll have to see what happens."

Nieminen began well, swiping the pace of his shots and choosing his angles to break the flow of the 19-year-old defending champion. But after dropping the first set, Nadal broke the Finn's serve in each of the next two sets.

On Saturday, Nadal will meet Spanish countryman Nicolas Almagro, who swept past 2004 champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-3, 6-0.

Almagro has won nine straight matches, including his debut title in Valencia two weeks ago. He's beaten three seeds in Barcelona and hasn't dropped a set. But Al-magro lost his only match with Nadal two years ago in Palermo.

"It be playing one of the best claycourt players in the world," Almagro said.

"With Almagro, boy, that'll be a tough match," Nadal said. "He's playing at a very high level right now and he hits the ball hard.

"Semifinals are always difficult, but I go into this one with plenty of confidence."

Ivanisa Kohlschr, the 2004 champ, had to overcome opponents and the conditions against unseeded Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland.

The sixth-seeded Kohlschr defeated Spanish unseeded Fernando Verdasco, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, in their rain-delayed, third-round match. He then topped fourth-seeded Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.

The 20th-ranked Wawrinka advanced by beating 24th-seeder 16-from-UK Ian Ashton of Croatia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, in two hours.

"When I play Gasbek it is very difficult," Wawrinka said. AP

FOR DYING MOM

Teenage golfer builds a lifetime of memories

EDISON—THE IMAGE WAS MISSing, but the memories will never fade. She for a 12-year-old fulfilling a dream for her dying mother, showing great promise in the process and even bracing the spotlight one more day.

Dakoda Dewart was made front of her for trying when she was happy, but the junior golfer from Palm Harbor could not help herself Friday when she completed her match and teared over at the Glen Oaks & Sunset Open in her first LPGA Tour event.

Tears flowed after her 82. It was a score she doubly would have to have lowered, but it helped put into context how remarkable her first round 74 was on the 6,333-course at Bermuda Bunes.

"It was everything I thought it would be and more," Dewart said of playing on the course with the LPGA. "I'm not happy to be done. I wanted to keep playing. But it was a great experience and I really just think that the reason for this was for my mom to watch me reach my dream."

Kelly Jo Dewart was there for all 36 holes, riding a cart around the course and wrapping at two-and-a-half grooms to get a glimpse of her daughter competing on the ultimate stage.

Playing hope

But a time of the afternoon, Dakoda harbored fleeting thoughts of making the 36-hole cut, a feat that would have made her the youngest in LPGA history.

But a double bogey on the 12th hole all but quashed that dream. For a 15-year-old playing on a course that's 300 yards longer than she is accustomed to and competing against pros, well, reality had to set in at some point.

"She made mistakes on today," said Kelly Jo, whose desire to see her daughter play in an LPGA Tour event turned into a weekend away.

When Sheridan Company, which is sponsoring the three-year, $2.5 million event, heard about Kelly Jo's terminal cancer, it offered Dakoda a sponsor exemption, asked the LPGA Tour to add a player to the field so nobody would be

WHEN: It's all over: Dakoda Dewart (left) will always have this snapshot with mom Kelly Jo – and a memorable LPGA tournament exist – to look back to. AP

knocked out, then spent most of the past six months helping her pressure cancer treatments.

"I feel about as happy as I've ever felt in my life," Kelly Jo said as a groom-side ceremony after the round, where she was presented with a replica of the trophy the winner will receive Sunday. "I thank the Lord for opening up this door for us. I thank all the people that have helped make a dream come true for me."

Dakoda missed the cut by eight shots, tied for 126th. She finished better than 10 players on the field. Al-though she failed to break 80 Friday, there were 20 other scores of 80 or higher.

And she showed remarkable poise under pressure, especially the first day when all eyes were on her.

Glimpses

"I think you got a glimpse of her personal (Thursday)," said Host Mitchell, her instructor and caddie. "And I think you got a glimpse of a normal 12-year-old (Friday)."

"She was a little bit off. She got a little bit emotional, and how could she not in this situation? There was a lot going on."

The Dewels will stick around to watch the tournament, led by South Korea's Birdie Kim (136). Kim, followed by Hilonor's Lorena Ochoa (70-137) and Japan's Ai Miyazato (69-138).

And you get the feeling they'll be happy to relax.

"The whole greatest fan from mom-dad-ball has been a blessing," Dakoda's father, Mike Dewart, said.

"We're thrilled and happy to be able to have the opportunity to watch our gal do her thing and now kind of get out of the way. We created enough distractions for her sooner when we try to go to a living, and it was always some of them or let us interrupt what they do for a couple of days. We deeply appreciate that."

– *New York Times News Service*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Editor: Teddyboy S. Philomeno

PHOTOS: Mayol in the punching bag in Tokyo.

Mayol flashes sharp form for May 6 WBC title fight

By Sabarí L. Lagumbay

UNDEFEATED BOXER, MAYOL displayed a sharp, fluid form as he tapered off training for his May 6 WBC minimum weight title bout against champion Zaghir Ayassa in Tokyo.

Mayol, WBC No. 1 mandatory contender, impressed onlookers in his first 15-round sparring in Japan against newly crowned ABF mini-mumweight champ Akira "Tornado" Morishita.

Mayol and Tsujashi sparred at the Ebisuin Gym (Higashi Ikebe), located in the Ebisuno in Tokyo.

"Yes, I sparred for rounds yesterday," said Mayol from his base in Tokyo. "My conditioning is really good. A Filipino engineer, Lito Magbalon, came to the gym to show his support."

Mayol is set to do another 15-round sparring jam, while a pawn auction will be held on Monday when he spars before Japanese onlookers.

The pawn auctions spanning will be Mayol's last, before he plunges into action against Ayassa. The durable reigning champion is a 7-to-1 favorite over the challenger.

Ayassa and Mayol are handled by Japanese managers.

UPHOLDING HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND FAIR PLAY

THE LASALLIAN RESPONSE TO THE UAAP BOARD DECISION

On La Salle University (DLSU) received on April 24 the official copy of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) decision to suspend DLSU for a period of one year on the ground that the University was "negligent" in verifying the eligibility documents prior to or at the time of its submission to the UAAP. In rendering this decision, the UAAP Board in effect censures all the athletes of DLSU, from the juniors and seniors level, for an offense that arguably was out of honest omission and which was brought to the attention of the UAAP Board by the University itself.

This issue goes beyond the realm of intercollegiate sports competition. It touches on our integrity as an educational institution and strikes at the heart of our cherished traditions. On what basis were we considered negligent? Was there due process in arriving at this decision? How grave was our offense, if any, to deserve a one-year suspension from all sporting events? The decision of the UAAP Board raises more questions than it provides answers.

We have not been negligent. It is perhaps unfortunate that DLSU was the only one that came out in the open. DLSU exercises standards higher than what is required by established procedures such as those contained in the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools and other government issuances. Prior to August 16, 2005, there was presumptive validity in the authenticity of documents. In the same manner that bank notes or other government-issued documents are taken for its face value unless otherwise proven to be an authority with technical competence, DLSU did what any other school would perhaps have done. Forensic, and perhaps unknown to many, the task requires the nature of the questioned document is a watermark that is detectable only by a special equipment. As early as July 2005, we attempted to raise the standards of record management by initiating a verification process that is not required at that time. In fact, we can dare say that DLSU was one among the very few schools which underwent this verification process prior to this incident. We were told that, in fact, there has been a significant increase in the number of schools requesting verification of PEPT documents after this case came out publicly. The Department of Education (DepEd) letter of August 16, 2005 would not have materialized had it not been for an earlier proactive step that we took in our communication to the DepEd on August 3. Justice also demands that investigations of this nature take time because of the need to bargain documentation with prudence. While it took DepEd less than two weeks to respond to our letter of August 16 identifying the first spurious document, it took the DepEd about eight weeks to finally determine the validity of the other spurious document. In the case of the UAAP Board, it took them about half a year to render its decision on our case in response to our voluntary disclosure contained in our letter of October 6.

We acted in good faith. We went beyond what was required. We submitted the painful truth. But the Board ruled that we were negligent.

We were denied due process. With sincere faith in a fair judgment, we submitted to the UAAP all the relevant documents to prove that there was no complicity in the anomaly. Our officials have been called to appear before the UAAP Fact Finding Committee and they responded honestly to all the questions asked. They submitted all the evidences required, a number of which show that the University took deliberate action after discovering the forged documents. All these documents and responses have not been taken into account by the UAAP Board as their decision does not even refer to any of the documents and statements we have submitted or the inquiries they have conducted. The decision does not explicitly refer to any specific provision in the UAAP rules and regulations. The charges have not been identified and we have not been given the chance to refute those allegations or defend our position.

We submitted ourselves to the authority of the Board. We cooperated fully with their investigation. We waited for six months for their decision. But the Board remained vague and arbitrary.

We do not deserve suspension. There was no deliberate attempt on the part of the University to commit any offense or to connive with those at fault. We introduced significant changes in admission policies especially in the submission of hand-carried documents. We outlined the return of the 2004 Championship trophy. We requested for a leave of absence in men's basketball for Season 69 to institute internal reforms. We believe that the decision to suspend DLSU in all sporting events is excessively punitive, consigning the rest of our student-athletes to an isolated state, depriving them in the medium term of a competitive inter-school league whose record has been established not by the current roster of team members but by the athletes themselves—past and present—and who have painstakingly prepared to bring glory to their alma mater, excel in the sport they play, and subsequently represent the nation in international competitions.

We forfeited the games we played the past two seasons. We requested a leave of absence from men's basketball for the forthcoming season. We addressed the gaps in our sports program that the Board dismissed as trivial.

We deserve nothing less than a forthright clarification from the UAAP. We are more than willing to submit ourselves to the decision of a body that upholds justice, respects due process and values honesty and fairness. We have sent to the UAAP on April 27 a letter to seek clarification on these issues. We will deliberate on our options after we have received their response.

As an educational institution, we believe that this experience should allow us to implement the reforms necessary within and beyond our institution and mentor the young people entrusted to our care with the values of honesty, integrity and fair play. It is our sincere prayer that the UAAP member universities will share this same belief that we stand for. This is not just about basketball. This is not just about sports. This is not even just about UAAP. And, definitely, this is not about winning at all costs. As difficult as this experience has been for the members and stakeholders of the University, we are certain that we have become stronger and are convinced to pursue truth, honesty and integrity will be much more resolute than ever.

Why be honest when it pays to be dishonest? Why fight for others when they won't fight for you?—or even for themselves? . . . The answer I think lies in what life means to you. If life means having a good time, money, fame, power, security—then you don't need principles; all you need are techniques. On the other hand, if happiness counts more than a good time, respect more than fame, right more than power and peace of soul more than security, if death doesn't end life but transforms it, then you must be true to yourself and to God and to love the truth, justice, and freedom that are God's other names.

Jose "Pepe" Diokno
Lasallian Alumnus

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

GMA invited as Palaro '06 main guest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS BEEN invited to be the keynote speaker when the 2006 Palarong Pambansa is held May 7-13 in Naga City.

ARROYO

Lyn Toledo, the Palaro national coordinator of the Department of Education, announced this the other day, adding that all sectors are go for the annual sports meet which will mark its return to Bicolandia after an early four years.

Toledo said she anticipates from the the Caraga Region of Bicolandia Mindanao was expected to arrive in Naga City yesterday.

All 17 sports in the calendar will be held at the newly renovated Metro Naga Sports Complex except for the elimination round of the basketball and baseball events which will be played in Iriga City.

The 10 other sports on tap are archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, chess, football, gymnastics, rhythmic, softball, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

Arnis and chinlonpatti will be held as demonstration sports.

Exhibition games in wheelchair basketball and wheelchair tennis and swimmers in sports for the differently abled will also be held in preparation for their inclusion in the future Palaro staging, according to Toledo.

Some 6,000 elementary and high school students are expected to take part in the Palaro which also invited Philippine Sports Commission chairman Ricardo Suzara and Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco to preside at their respective opening and closing ceremonies.

So suffers 2nd defeat in Dubai tilt

SO

FILIPINO FIDE master Wesley So suffered his second straight defeat in the 8th Dubai Open Blitz, bowing to Indian journalist Pubidipta Ghosh at the Dubai Chess and Cultural Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

With his second straight loss, the 12-year-old So from Cavite remained with 5.5 points and dropped to a share of 41st place with three rounds to go.

So, who ranked also 55 (none of a Nielsen Extreme Nielsen Ranking) will face GM Efstratios Grivas of Greece and Hungarian Ivan Sokolov next.

Despite So's loss, National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president and Inquirer columnist Jose Antonio Concepcion "Bench" Narvasa Jr. still hopeful the youth gem can become national master soon.

Second seed GM Evgenes Inarkiev of Kazakhstan took the individual with a massive 7.5 output of 10 over GM Ilgiz Gallyamov of Slovakia after 46 moves of a Sicilian Defense to remain 5.5 points.

Four players are tied for second spot with 5.5 point each after the sixth round. They are No. 3 Gabriel Sargissian of Armenia, No. 6 GM Giorgi Kacheishvili of Georgia, No. 8 GM Sergey Fedorchuk of Russia and No. 11 GM Tigran Petrosian of Armenia.

The event, held 20 GMs, 17 IMs and 41 other titled players is pursuit of prize totaling $40,000. Nil Marlon Bernardino

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronie G. Velarde

Beauty to Lani: Nothing to fear

By Nini Valera

PRECIOUS LARA QUIGAMAN, BOBBI Bonilla's new screen partner, has assured the reunion-wary wife Lani Bonilla that there is nothing to fear.

"I would ask [Lani] to come to the set," Bibo International 2000 said, "so she would see that she need not worry. From what I know about them [ok, the leading man is always linked to his [love interest] while the movie is being shot. This is nothing new."

Quigaman has taken the place of Gretchen Barretto, rumored to be a former girlfriend of Bonilla's, for the role in Star Productions' "Kapag Tumibok Ang Puso... Her Story, Part Three," directed by Wenn Deramas.

The beauty queen plays Bonilla's young wife. Her appearance is being billed under "special participation."

On her first shooting day with the reunion, Quigaman told Inquirer Entertainment that she didn't mind being second choice.

"I accepted this movie because I laughed so hard when I read the script," she said. "It's really a family movie. I would bring my own brothers and sisters to watch it [the movie, even if] as not in it."

That is the beauty queen's first screen outing. Her only acting experience was portraying herself in "Wuppakalimosan," in 2004.

Not good enough

Everyone that she has bagged the leading lady job in the Bonilla classic, Quigaman confided that she did not feel she was good enough to be an actress.

"I still need more work shops," she said. "That's why I'm feeling nervous."

Her leading man was quick to boost her confidence.

"In all fairness," he said, "she was good in [the episode of Maja Salvador]."

That's why we thought of asking her."

PRECIOUS Lara Quigaman: "I'll ask her to visit the set."

Real lead

Aside de las Alas it really the movie's star, the comedian herself pointed out.

"I don't see why [her] fighting over who the leading lady is," Jo las Alas said, straight-faced. "Can't they see that I'm the star?"

In the movie, the comedian plays a troublesome palatero who creates the heart of the Quigaman's character.

BEAUTY, A22

Was ABS-CBN eyeing 'Idol' co-prod deal with ABC 5?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE RUMOR WAS RELAYED TO Inquirer Entertainment by a Kapamilya insider: ABS-CBN is eyeing a co-production deal with ABC 5 for "Philippine Idol."

Not true, said Mabuhi E. Espinosa, vice president for Government, Corporate Affairs and PR, in an official statement sent to Inquirer Entertainment. "No discussion ever took place between ABS-CBN and ABC 5 to produce 'Philippine Idol.'"

Determined

Robert V. Barreto, ABC 5 managing director for News and Entertainment, recounted a slightly different story. "It's a format that any network would like to have. It wouldn't be surprising if ABS-CBN or any other network wanted to have it in their lineup. But, as we speak right now, we are determined to hold on to it."

Barreto said, "Fremantlemedia [the show's UK-based producer] talked to all the networks, as it negotiates routinely on local networks if they are interested. But in the early days, networks thought they could just produce shows inspired by a foreign concept. Now, it has been proven that purchasing the production 'Idols' increases chances of success."

This was confirmed by Espinosa: "While it is true that the producers of 'American Idol' first offered ABS-CBN the show during the time of former network president Freddie M. Garcia a few years ago, we declined since we already had an existing show, 'Star in a Million,' [with a] similar format."

The same format exist by ABS-CBN after ABC finally acquired the "Idol" franchise last February, following three years of negotiation.

Barreto recalled, "There was some talk on how we could work together. But it wasn't formal. It was just mentioned in passing."

The question in mind, he said, was, "Is there a way to cooperate? But nothing firm came out of it."

According to the Kapamilya source, ABC will benefit from ABS-CBN's extensive network of personalities, particularly by dangling the auditions (to be held in Manila, Cebu and Davao starting in May).

"It's really going to help," Barreto admitted. "But we are also capable of generating hype because we have big media partners like Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) and Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC). RMN takes charge of Visayas and Mindanao, MBC, the whole of Luzon. 3M Idols is our partner for the fast-track [audition and presentation] sessions."

But this said this response of their business partners had caught them by surprise.

"We've been getting calls every day from other entities that hope to work with us," he said. "Other corporations want to be identified with 'Idol' because it's wholesome and has a very good success record. It's a hit in over 20 countries."

Still, the question remains: Will Filipino stars see "Idol," in spite of the glut of amateur singing contests on air?

Companies Ryan Lloydesh, the first AP "Idol" judge to be confirmed, was optimistic: "The time is right. The other shows have prepared the viewers for the local Idol."

Stand out

Barreto agreed: "It will stand out. There are many local contests, but nothing compares to the [original.] I don't think the others are spending as much as we are. 'Idol' probably costs more than 'Encantadia' and other big-budget fantasy [series]."

Pressed for figures, Barreto said, "Meaning 'Idol' costs over P100 million."

Also, Barreto noted that ABC's News and Current Affairs department will take an active part in the unraveling of the "Idol" auditions.

"'Idol' producers have a unique drop-

ANABS-CBN, A22

He calls this one 'Underground Radio'

By Mudrah N. Cruz

A NEW RADIO STATION "FOR younger listeners" and which "supports OPM (pinoy original music) and more" is set to launched on June, according to Hans 'rock 'n' roll' icon Ramon Jacinto, owner of the station.

UR Radio, or 105.9 Hits—or Underground Radio, RJ says—will play a mixture of classic and new rock that listeners do not normally hear on other radio, said Jacinto, who is also president and chief executive officer of Nash Broadcasting.

Rajah also runs K-Lite 101.1, which Jacinto handles on drive.

Alternative

"While K-Lite is more mainstream, the new station will play alternative tunes," said Jacinto during a visit to the business office in Makati. In last week,

Jacinto cited as examples the works of rock legends Bb King, Led Zeppelin ("classic rock songs at those that have danceable, catchy melodies") and Rik Cuenco ("those with the longest ad libs"), as well as original compositions of local artists to register, this Hans said during the groups.

"There are many local artists who need greater exposure, radio. We want to encourage them, to make more songs, at the same time attract more people to support them," said Jacinto.

Wouldn't UR compete with 91.1?, which also targets the younger listening blocks?

JB will cater to listeners in the 16-40 age bracket. It will not fight with 91.1. It won't be on head, it will be a head listen.

Since K-TM caters to a specific type of listener, there are many songs that are

RAMON JACINTO: "I like p
artists. It's so refreshing just
another FM station to intro
to younger audiences.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

Filmvil

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ROBINSONS CINEMAS

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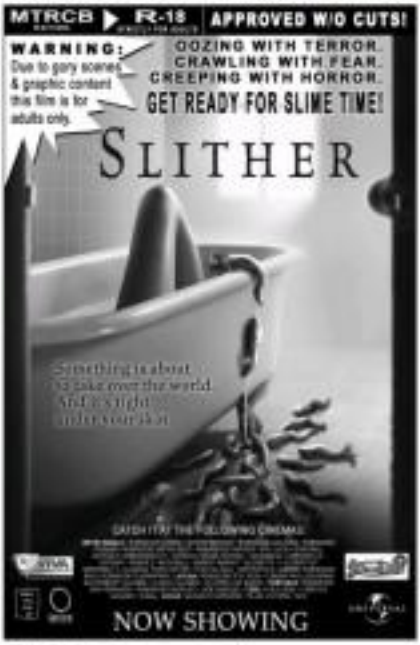

Night o

By Oliver M. Palmaflor
Contributor

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...ner's ticket to the women's program-ming. They will confer with the mellow pop-rock broadcast on 92.

You've said in past interviews that it's your wish to keep discovering new ta-lents. Is this a continuation of that?

I helped discover new talents before. I still do. At first, I am having a series of shows with only new talents at the Cup-saint Bar of the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Makati City. On May 6, I will perform with Apoy Velasco. This will be the first in a series of shows, once a month, for six months.

As the series starts, we'll also have a guest night—me with young guitarists like Francis Reyes and Joey Payot.

(Welcoming to the series with Aquino are Christian Bautista, Rhea Anit, Paolo Santos and Gian Gabungan.)

How did you hit on these young artists?

I read about them in the papers, including your section. Some of them come to RJ FM to plug their al-bums. Like Christian Bautista, before he became [famous], he was one of my regular students. I like interacting with these young artists. It's easy to-breaking [ice] to multi-talents.

"There are many local recording artists who don't get played on radio'

f the beleaguered Belle

Review

o Lani: Nothing to fear

BONG Revilla and Precious Lara Quigaman

BN eyeing 'Idol' ...

from page A1

Treats for preschoolers—and moms

THE MONTH OF MAY DEBUTS IN more fun on Cartoon Network:

- "Tiny TV Mother's Day Mixoff" airs May 1 on 6, 9:a.m. to 12 noon.
- "Donald" premieres May 1 and airs weekdays, 1:6 p.m. in Tiny TX
- "Timbuctoo Tales" kicks May 1 and airs weekdays at 10:30 a.m. also in Tiny TX. All about Bed, a Dee leads to a trilogy.
- "Baby Looney Tunes" all new episodes starts May 1 and airs weekdays at 6:30 a.m.
- "Wednesday" premieres on May 6 and airs weekends, 8:30 a.m. The most powerful fighting robot would solve a real boy.
- "Pet Alien" all new episodes starts May 20 and airs weekdays, 4 p.m.
- "Scooterbuster Island Bit" has topics all four days Mondays, weekends starting May 6—Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m.
- "Chicago Bears" returns on May 27 weekends at 7 a.m. in Toronto.
- "Gautam Seed" returns May 27, double episodes on weekends at 10:30 p.m. in Toronto.

Disney Channel

Tomorrow is a big day at Disney Channel.

- "Get Active! Let's Stick" airs at 9:30 a.m. Join the Active Kids' from real boys in a fun workout.
- "Cinderella" follows at 10:30 a.m.
- "Monsters, Inc." ...remember the gang?—it sat at 5 p.m.

BE "TEETY" FORBES. HE COULD BE done a duet on it was on the road (shows that could be sing, too? Universal Records through us. "All Fathers Train Dance Hits," Preschool records), is the result of 18-8 contributes, "Hey Di Cappuccino" a fun concise single of the 12-track album. Check out some video. "Bonjour," "Todd Runs Down," "Sleepy Chirpy Chirpy Cheep," "La Roquin." Obviously it's mostly fun stuff.

Susie Suso

The Siddons' twins Clive and Rob, now known as "Susie Suso," have released their debut album titled "The Blessing of Happy" now available in leading stores. The duo is set to tour Asia, including the Philippines.

Times have definitely changed, but only for Labor Day.

ENTERTAINMENT

Big changes for Miss RP Earth

Invitation expanded, jurors are all women

By Article Adea

THERE WILL BE A LOT OF changes in this year's Miss Philippines-Earth pageant, said organizer Carousel Productions during the candidates' presentation in Manila on Wednesday.

For one, said Lorraine Schuck, Carousel executive vice president, the competition was opened to all girls abroad of Filipino descent. Schuck explains why Filipino communities in the United States, Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand are represented in the 2006 lineup.

Also joining representatives from Metro Manila and regions around the country is a delegate from the Celebration special economic zone. "She was selected by the environment department to promote the area," Schuck said.

STEPHANIE Magat, 23

Familiar faces

Another landmark innovation is the all-women panel of judges. Schuck said this year's jurors are "Filipino women who have made a global mark." They will select the country's representative to the Miss Earth pageant, which will be held in Santiago, Chile in November.

The 20 official candidates paraded to the regional Champion swimwear at the Peta Nilosa in Intramuros, Manila. Among the more popular was Ginger Conejero from the US, crowned Miss Bomb Filipina-San Francisco in 2004. Conejero had a political science degree from the University of Southern California-Berkeley to take up law—now she has both a knot from work in an Internet company in Los Angeles to prepare for the pageant.

Although her participation came too quick

APRIL Lim Jordan, 19

ly for sponsors "took care of all the little things so I didn't have to worry about anything," said Conejero said, adding that she received phone calls and text messages from Filipinos in Celebrezo everyday just to make sure that everything is okay. "Outgoing representative welcomes us answering unnecessary questions," Conejero exclaimed Filipino.

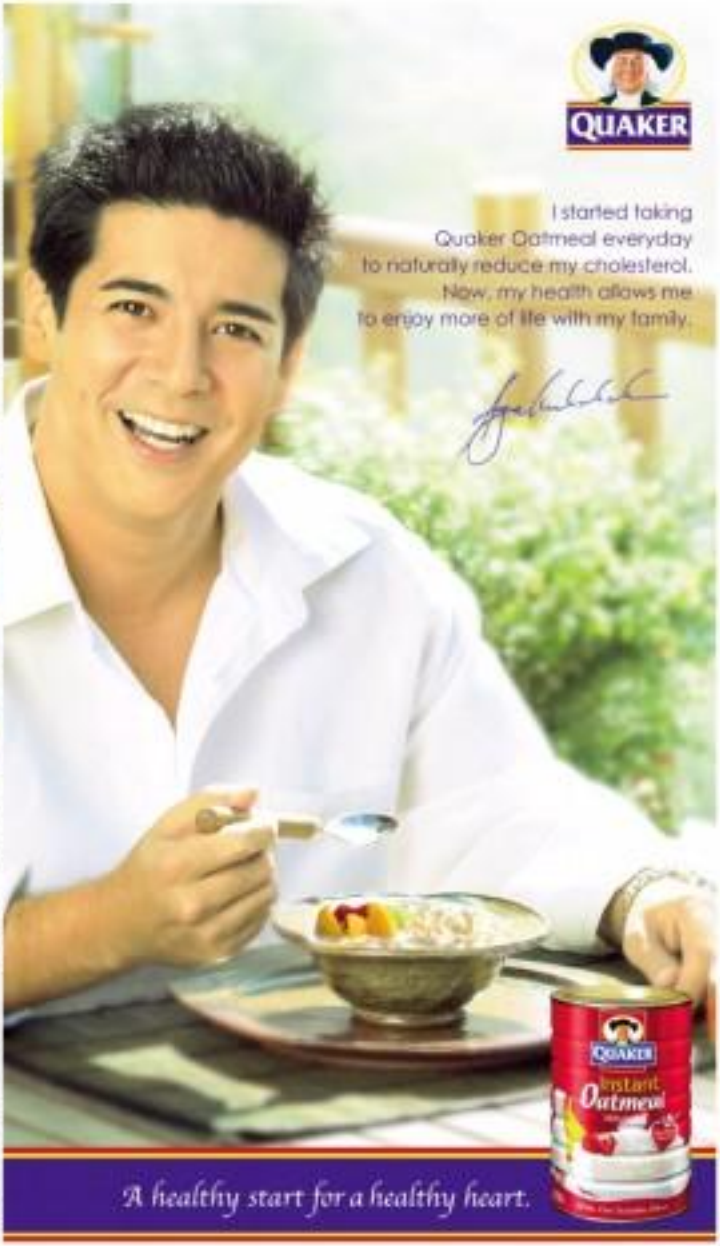
A finalist last year Crystal Louise Ortmann Dianne Geronimo. The finalists from last year is a contributor in the pageant's 2004 edition. "The time prepared us unique also, I'm more confident," she said. She had taken courses in poise, personality and presentation. She explained, as well as in makeup and gown and swimsuit modeling.

Formidable neophytes

Stephanie Magat of Metro Manila joined the debutante Filipinos pageant last year. Since then, she said, "I have changed physically—I grew taller, for one." Unlike most pageant contestants who go on a strict diet, "I ate a lot to gain weight [for Miss Philippines-Earth]."

The neophytes are formidable as well. Among them is six-foot tall Catherine Untalan, the tallest candidate. "I'm considering every option that will be open to me, with the exposure in the pageant," said the Fine psychology graduate of the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

Outgoing queen Genebelle Bruges will relinquish her title in a colorful coronation night at the UP Theater in Quezon City on May 14. The pageant, presented by Pond's Philo Beauty and Miss E, airs live on ABS-CBN.



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GALLERIA

1 BASIC INSTINCT 2 - TNS
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 THE SENTINEL
4 SILENT HILL
5 SLITHER
6 THE WILD
7 PANAHIN
8 D' LUCKY ONES
9 EIGHT BELOW
10 SUBMERGED

ERMITA

1 THE SENTINEL
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 D' LUCKY ONES
4 THE WILD
5 SLITHER
6 PANAHIN
7 SILENT HILL

METRO EAST

1 ICE AGE 2
2 THE WILD
3 D' LUCKY ONES
4 SILENT HILL
5 THE SENTINEL
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
7 SLITHER
8 PANAHIN

NOVALICHES

1 D' LUCKY ONES
2 SLITHER
3 SILENT HILL
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
5 THE SENTINEL
6 THE WILD

CITISQUARE MALABON (BELOW) PIONEER

1 D' LUCKY ONES
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 THE WILD
2 THE SENTINEL
3 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
4 SLITHER

STA. ROSA

1 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
2 SLITHER
3 PANAHIN
4 THE WILD

LIPA

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 PANAHIN
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 D' LUCKY ONES
5 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE SENTINEL
2 SLITHER
3 PANAHIN
4 THE WILD
5 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

ANGELES

1 THE SENTINEL
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 THE WILD
4 SLITHER

IMUS

1 THE WILD
2 PANAHIN
3 SILENT HILL
4 THE SENTINEL
5 SLITHER
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

STARMILLS

1 SLITHER
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 PANAHIN
4 THE WILD
5 BANDIDAS
6 THE SENTINEL

BACOLOD

1 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
5 PANAHIN
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

ILOILO

1 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
5 BASIC INSTINCT 2
6 SILENT HILL

CHEER FACTOR

Is that Elvis?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee is now selling commemorative postcards featuring Elvis Presley — minus his red sideburns. Governor Phil Bredesen signed a bill in May that changed the state's official Elvis stamp from his 1957 film "Jailhouse Rock."

But this time, the bootleggers' friends didn't lug in the postcards. Instead, state officials used Photoshop to remove the sideburns from a 1968 photo of Graceland, the Memphis mansion where Presley lived and died.

Then, Bredesen wrote to Presley and said, "Let's pick it up a little bit, honey. There's all kinds of things we can do in Tennessee. But not this, let's take the pink Cadillac."

AP

FEEDBACK

Portents!

From Lei Reyes Londerio
Show number, mail, cost, W Jacinto St, Mkt. 11, Tabo, Guadalupe, Makati City:

First, Rudy Fernandez was hospitalized. Then, Jaggy Estrada collapsed on stage and was rushed to the hospital. Next, last week, Phillip Salvador was snatched at airport. Is there a pattern here? Bong Revilla, it must be serious. Knock on wood. Show your SM hometown card!

I agree

From Lenice of ADSE [area and landline, mailed/inbox/email] SC Subdivision Association, Brgy. Sparkville, 227 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City:

I support the backlash of Mars Ledesma regarding the lack of the "Tarlac Big Star." This is to inform the management of the SM-CDO that we are very disappointed. Christmas should have arrived.

Too much

From Tita A. Mendoza, Angeles, PO Box 1111 San Fernando La Union:

I totally agree with Senator Ti. Even on his comments about Bilibid, me and their wearing too much makeup. All Filipinos and Filipinas, especially here in the province, have natural beauty. It's a common thing that we even many times of younger people as they are made to look and feel older. Let there be characters and evaluate their acting. Other than that, I like the show as there are very talented younger singers here. I am looking forward to "Philippine Idol."

MAS PINA-HAPPY, HAPPY HOUR ANG PRIMETIME NATIN!

Qtv
Channel 11

Simula Monday, **May 1,**
asikay na sa kanyang trip!

Bukas na ang enemy parade ng kiyeme
pero ng original patawa, gaga, epoch at fun pa!

Sabayan ang kilig ni
Sweetie Molly • Ray & Quinton • Julia Clarete
Ryan Yllana • John Pratt • Allana Durant
Owen Yazel • Yumara del Mundo • Vivo Orama

PROJECT 11

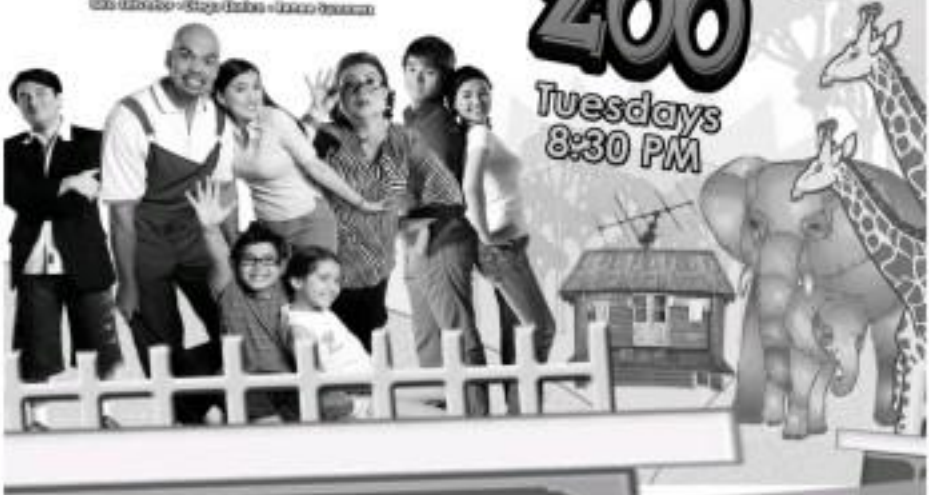
Monday - Friday
8:00 PM

Simula Tuesday, **May 2,**
ZOO-per kulit at ZOO-per sayang
dilesan puno sa bonong pamilya!

Dare na at kabisote ang
Ara Mina • Ranjo Perez • Nanette Inventor
Jaime Bonoy • Chuck Allie • Jojo A.
Paul Salas • Anna Daniela
Ria Atayde • Shaz Dados • Rene Tenorio

FAMILY ZOO

Tuesdays
8:30 PM



Formula for trouble

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SEASON OF ABC1's "Dual 'Dr Dance?" celebrity challenge was a bit bumpy. It's three finalist stars Mystica, Steven de Guzman and William Martinez and their respective dance partners worked hard on their showcase performances.

— but it high from that exhilarating viewing experience, we raised in to the celebrity dance challenge's new season last April 16—only to be rudely disappointed.

This time around, in place of the usual 10 (more or less) partners, four husband-

Anselm U. Serre

dancers were fielded in dance with celebrities Richard de Mesa, Thea Cruz III, Jake Ejercito and Bobby Andrews.

That night in "casting" proved to be a formula for trouble, since the fourteenth girls were too raw to effectively teach their star partners how to really dance, and to conceptualize commanding choreography for their numbers.

As a result, most of the male celebrities opted to take the line of least resistance and, instead of really dancing, just "performed" their respective routines, who did most of the unpredictable work.

Obviously, this is no way to "compete" in a dance tilt, as one must chat, after having undergone their "baptism of fire" last April 16, the celebrity-hoofers will decide on' give the completion everything they've got from here on in.

On the next season's premiere telecast, Bobby did lose of all, because he at least bothered to infuse his dancing with a sense of fun. the his part, Jake looked uncomfortable and "staggered" himself to "re-energize" his hesitant properties around the dance floor. Let's hope he picks up fast.

The stars' numbers were generally so weak that the show's judges had a hard time parsing a positive spin on them. In trying to be upbeat, they gave the cheesy routine so-so that were generally too high for their less than commendable efforts.

Most, the judges should remind themselves that they're to set standards and to reward outstanding work. Giving an 8 out of a perfect 10 for weak dancing doesn't do anybody any good.

Not worse of the judges are simply trying to encourage the celebrity contestants to do better, but when the stars start doing really outstanding work, what grade will the judges give them—12 out of perfect 10?

No trace that the new season of "Dual 'Dr Dance?" puts its emphasis more, forward the disaster recently concluded season on a high performance standard that should inspire other stars rather that intimidate them.

Perhaps the key difference is that Mystica, Steven and William were good dancers to begin with, and they were patient by experienced dance professionals.

Be that as it may, the current field of celebrity dancers has to do what it can to overcome its limitations or inhibitions, to ensure the show's hard-earned popularity with viewers.

Feedback

PRIDE: **Paul R. Monzó**: "Last April 9, I viewed a film at the Gateway 11 theater. I am glad to report that, finally, the theater and the Philippine National Anthem before the screening, although it was only on audio. I hope Gateway's other theaters are already doing the same."

From **Ed R. Gonzales** of Makati City: "I watched the show on the so-called Gospel of Judas, but it did not dovel what the old document contained, as it was difficult for me to evaluate its message. How can we get hold of the translation?"

We have received these excerpts from the National Geographic Channel: "The Gospel of Judas" not begins, "The correct account of the conversion that Jesus spoke in conversation with Judas Iscariot during a week, three days before he celebrated Passover." It is from themes that scholars regard as being consistent with Gnostic traditions. In the first scene, Jesus laughs at his disciples for praying to "your God" meaning the Old Testament god who created the world. He challenges them to look at him and understand who he really is, but they turn away.

"The key passage comes when Jesus tells Judas, '... you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man who clothes me.'

"Judas is singled out for special status. 'Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal' Jesus says. He also tells Judas, 'Look, you have been told everything. Lift up your eyes and look at the cloud and the light within it, and the stars surrounding it. The star that leads the way is your star.'

"The gospel also suggests Judas will be despised by the other disciples, but will be exalted over them: '... You will be cursed by the other generations—and you will come to rule over them...'

"The gospel ends abruptly: 'They (the arresting party) approved ... and he received some money and handed him over to them.' No mention is made of Jesus' resurrection or reactions."

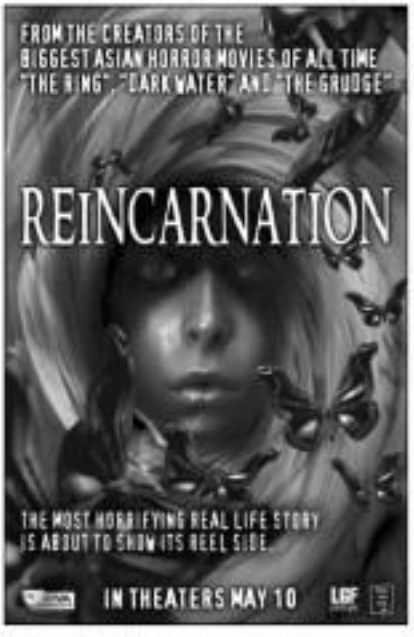
Summer Enrichment Program

THE SUMMER Enrichment Program of MIRIAM Feminist and Review Center readers redesigns to tackling their study habits and improve mathematics performance. Call 5256814 or 36 or e-mail elaine3pb@gmail.com.

"Slither"

IS the horror film "Slither" the creepy cum of celebrity is the any small town in the United States—cum? Some real livewire men up lonely mediated and a young woman goes missing. Sheriff Bill Pardy (Nathan Fillion) decides to team uncover the dark force luring steps to the town—and comes face to face with an ironic sequence involves an abandoning and devouring all life on earth.

Writer's Joe Leydon's take on the film: "Slither" is a gleefully nasty and ingeniously weird horror-comedy that gets a populace of heavily-armed but mostly clueless and macho against flesh-eating maniacs, dirty environmental slugs and acid-spewing, multi-tentacled monsters. It gradually accelerates and eventually achieves a breakneck momentum that makes the title even more relevant."



Behind Closed Doors, a retro dance band

A NEW RETRO BAND PLAYS NOT ONLY THE hits of the '80s and '70s but also top-of-the-line ballroom music for dinner orchestration. Behind Closed Doors is the brainchild of Mitos Bonifacio, the artist/Art-ionaire of The Rebus.

Mon hit the drums now to beat up the dance scene. On first keyboard is Jojo Bonifacio who used to play piano with The Rebus and who is now BCD vocal manager and musical director. On second keyboard is Abe Glutinius, multi-arranger, guru of hi-fi-set-theatre's sounds such as string and brass sections.

Jose guitarist is Bert Arriaga, another Rebus original, who became an entertainment musician. Pinang Iced guitar is Samson Abergani, who has played all over the world with vari ous bands, and is tonight after by Mig nonne Cruz, foreign and local, for record ings and live concerts.

On vocals are three men and a lady, each one a seasoned soloist as well as harmonizer, Lourdine Tiamzon, alto soprano, is a favorite performer who refused to dance before singing. She has attended commercial jingles song with different accelerants, and does foreign art. Playing with BCD, her OWN hit single, "I Don't Love You Anymore," which she cut with the Bert Minstrels in the late '80s, is one of the most requested songs.

Female favorites has been singing with different bands since high school days in Antero... Manila Little Miss, Vidoc, and other groups in Bohol, Japan, the Middle East. In '95, he joined Lani Mis... started band Silk and three retired, until BCD was formed.

Bobby Rondez has played piano and sung for audiences from China to New York. BCD is fortu nate to have him working with them.

Chito Santiago started singing also in Ateneo High School (Cookie), class '12. Up Your Down Under's He turned professional in '71, performing nightly with Bleh of Cecilia Hunt's La Concha Ho rient Abroad, and returned in '92, where he sang with Spirit of '87 until 2005.

BCD's single Saturday at Conveyor Bar, Makati Shangrila, Mediterranean at Club Stones, Fortune, Thursday at Peninsula, Timog. Call 409-09, 632-9511.

Powerdance tonight

"Powerdancing in the Dark" by Douglas Sta cia Powerdancer opens at the Rhodes Theatre tonight, repeats tomorrow.

"Powerdancing" showcases a new concept in dance called Rhoc Theatre. Call 995-0287 and 995-0203.

Steven Chapman

Steven Curtis Chapman with D'Best and your guest will be perform in a free benefit con cert, "I Will Be Here," on Nov. 7, 7 p.m., at the BCC Mimosa Hall. Breadwinners are Answers, Growing Kidings and Other Good Hope.

Chapman, best known for writing and singing the hit "I Will Be Here," is a multi-platinum artist, five-time Grammy winner and 30 Dove Award winner. Call 632-0999.

Show Time

Today

Pupil and Sandwich at MTV and Motown "Melded" event in Mimosa.

Shamrock at Metropolis Star Alabang, 7 p.m.

Acid Delta Alot Mugg Magic Sassy Principle Tree at La Bar Public Market and Jazz Music Bistro.

Join the Club at Robinson's Starmills Food passage.

May 2

K and The Boxers at Eldub Greenhills.

BEHIND Closed Doors

STEPHENCurtis Chapman

May 3

K and The Boxers at Mimosa Acoustic

May 4

The Conquest! at Hard Rock Cafe

Mon David, Nadya Cabahug and Cynthia Alexander join UP-based intimate Fortress in a concert at Dreamland '77 Convention Center, Mother Ignacia St., QC.

Dumbo at Ruddy Mahon

May 6

Sidy is at Sentrosil Palm

Join the Club at Robinson's Place Manila

K and The Boxers at Ruddy Mahon

K Brosas

KHOV Nolasco

May 10

"Spa... Masters of Guitars: Steve Rekanti" at Santolan Powerwork, Greenhills, San Juan

K and The Boxers at Mimosa Acoustic

May 11

The Conquest! at Hard Rock Cafe

"Spa... Masters of Guitars: Steve Unlanti" at Santolan Powerwork, Greenhills, San Juan

May 12

Blinde Breakouts in his first major concert at Greenhills, Greenhills 1

"Spa... Masters of Guitars: Steve Rekanti" at Santolan Powerwork, Greenhills, San Juan

Kidz at Ruddy Mahon

Tour Edith at Ruddy Mahon

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT

BOB Lowe

'I've certainly reached that point where I must say, yeah, I'm definitely not a boy anymore'

A Lowe-down on his life & career

LOS ANGELES—BOB LOWE'S PRETTY FACE is not staring well.

At his athletic late middle age, the hot pussy boy of the '80s has also developed anxiety, self-deprecating, an about him. He can freely joke about himself. This member of the Brat Pack is lucky to have comedy serve as his stage in his life. He could have flailed into oblivion or become a has-been appearing in B pictures less than days, like Hollywood actor is enjoying considerable, if not spectacular, success.

Fortunately for Bob, it turns out that he has acting chops that rendered him to make the transition to mature roles (see: he, along with Ashton Kutcher, is the only actor to play a top Hollywood agent in "Thank You for Smoking." In the brilliant satire that we saw with Bob at Sundance last January it sparked a bidding war among film distributors). His character is a master of creating sight gags that illustrate the outside-the-box mind of powerful Hollywood animal. He agent.

A fittingly funny adaptation of **Christopher Buckley**'s novel, "Thank You For Smoking" stars a terrific **Aaron Eckhart** as a tobacco industry lobbyist with a killer smile who vanishes do anything to put his spin down. For big the D and A after that fundraiser screening, debriefing film-maker **Jason Reitman**, talented son of director Ivan ("Ghostbusters"), expressed surprise that it are some trembling Aaron and **Katie Holmes**, who plays a Washington Post reporter (no odd you, Aaron's characters would do anything), had been cast elsewhere.

Jason's remarks prompted speculation that Katie's mate, **Tom Cruise**, put pressure on the film distributors to nix the cast scene. It proved to be false—it was simply a goof by the preproduction—but the rumor persisted.

Bob—and the rest of the cast of "Thank You"—got excellent reviews. The actor whose only notable subsist starring with Tom Cruise, **Matt Dillon** and **Patrick Swayze**, in teenagers in **Francis Ford Coppola**'s acclaimed 1983 film, is an earnest loveable actors that year when he shared romance into the London stage in the play "A Two Executives."

Bob recently returned to the set of "The West Wing" to appear in its farewell episode. He was last the critics' respect, and ultimately an Emmy nomination for his portrayal of a White House communications director in the TV series which he quit in 2002 due to pay disputes.

The former party animal, once linked to such high profile ladies as Monaco's Princess **Stephanie**, socialite **Camilla Grant** and actress **Natasaja Kinski**, and whose high school classmates included **Charlie Sheen** and **Sean Penn**, have settled into domesticity with wife **Sheryl Berkoff**. The couple, married in 1991, are raising two sons in Santa Barbara, California.

When you think about the early part of your career, what comes to your mind?

A lot of my early movies are being released on DVD on their 20th anniversaries (laughs). I'm glad that I'm still here, talking before you guys. Lately, I've been doing a DVD commentary for the 15th year of "The Outsiders."

It makes me think about those times [when] my life was here about going from project to project and that was my whole focus. I had nobody to answer to but myself. Is so great, ... with ... [it] talk. You're just thinking about the lines of "Hey, I hope I can be in that next Schwarzenegger movie." It was a really simple, fun time like we all had when we were kids. I get to relive that every time I land on HBO or Showtime and see one of my old movies. It's kind of cool.

What do you think about the new Bob Lowe?

I don't run into them in restaurants because I don't live here [in LA] so my exposure to the new generation—I mean, thought I'd be seeing their daughters—I want to go there my brain can't even think you, (laughs). My exposure to the new generation is limited to what I read and see. It's the same story for any generation. Wasn't new, you're getting famous really young, you don't know who you are. The ones who have it (ugly)

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Marlene V. Sepulveda

so really stand out. In any generation, among the guys who were really focused on who was Tom Cruise. Time always had her eye on the ball. To this I say that in Asian Shakespeare.

Do your sons look like you?

They look a lot like their mom but yeah, they're blonde versions of me. My oldest son is going to his first rock-big club visit, she's dressing as Josh Pop Cards (Bob's character) in "The Outsiders" which gives him an extra advantage. He's going to get some girls to dance with him based on that alone.

Have old are you now?

Forty-two, but I am going to start lying about my age soon (laughs).

You don't look 42.

Good, because I am going to start lying to it (laughs) in the next press conference.

I am not going to ask who you found your agent character on in "Thank You For Smoking."

You can ask.

Okay, who?

The line of all things Jason is based on Mike Ovitz because everybody knows he loves the art of one and line Tim. He was very into that but the discussion is not Mike Ovitz is all. The character is actually a combination of three or four people that I cannot name but it's the mere versions of powerful "agenting" he the old days it was, "You'll never work in this town again." That's much too strong. So now it is equally as full of shit, if you'll excuse me (laughs). Now it's "You're just humble people (laughs), unless we, sing to put people together." That's the new diseases marketing's what I was trying to do.

What's the worst piece of advice that an agent has given you?

That I should take a movie for way less than I'd ever made before. I thought, wow, if that's what he thinks I'm worth, it's better get a new agent.

Did you?

I did, and I ended up doing the movie for what I wanted to do it for. But generally, I've been lucky. Everybody who has represented me has been really great. Agents are a lot like politicians. I was on a show about politics ("The West Wing") for a long time. Politicians are easy targets. They're easy to make fun of. A lot of people don't like them and there are a lot of them that are unlikeable.

Some with agents, but have experience, most agents believe in talent they do. They want to help talent. They want talent to succeed. Although I had a lot of fun making them of agents on this movie, the truth is, the most politicians, most agents care their jobs really seriously and are good at it.

Was the Lioness scene your idea?

It was Mr. Jason Reitman's idea (laughs). We have a picture of us on the set... the wardrobe person is showing us the Lioness and I'm looking at it like, "Whoa, pal, I don't know about this (laughs)." We actually had a moment where I said to Jason, "I'm really going to wear this kit, more in the movie?" and he went, "Yeah, I think you are." I said, "All right, let's do it." I'm glad I did, because the biggest laugh every time I see the movie is when it's revealed that it's my other lifestyle.

I was thinking about this. One of my favorite, though sad, memories at the Oscars every year is the "In memoriam" segment dedicated to the talents who died in the past year. I said to Jason, "In 40 years, 50 years, whatever it is, find

Read more about the great movie in the day if that Lioness is in my 'in memoriam' portion (laughs). I will kill you."

What was it like working [on Lioness]?

Like working in any role. You're like the Tin Woodsman in "The Wizard of Oz." They would just sort of lift me against the wall. He can't take it off by yourself. It was very uncomfortable. It was very heavy. When my first set of really nice workers came out for that, Jason wanted to buy me a Lioness as a gift (laughs).

There's a funny line in the movie that is said a couple of times. But Aaron's character did it in the mortgage.

I love it. The Purple Pummeling [refrain, then call it: "Likely to the mortgage."

Can you tell us which films you did for the mortgage?

I think if you go to imdb.com and look at my filmography, you can probably guess (laughs).

How was your experience appearing in a play ("A Two Executive Way") in LA, either?

I was there for six months, which really takes you off the market for a year. I'm still seeing the effects of that but forgive I did. I was welcomed with open arms on every level—both the critics, who were fantastic to me, and the audiences. We were almost another one among the straight drama plays.

I met [British Prime Minister] Tony Blair when he came to the rehearsal to say hello. It was just an amazing experience. But the agents were, "Eh, you're going to go work for free for six months, dude! Fantastic (laughs)."

Have you experienced others you reincarnated to type a spoiled appearance for the final episode of "The West Wing"?

Part of all, there you're all here. I think you guys because, as you all remember, you were the first people to see picture. "The West Wing," We knew never, but prior to the last episode. I did where I left the stage was look at the four dancers and that for it to look to Globe to an area of the studio where all of the dropbox set kept. That was the last thing I looked at. I walked out and that was it. It was sad but more than anything, there was just a great sense of what that show was at its height. The show has changed a lot in the years that I was not on it. I don't envy, that a lot of it but it was good to be back at the end and sort of help put it to bed.

Didn't you subtly quit/direct a short film?

I did. I had big plans. What happened was, I had a lot of people interested in me as a director and a lot of really fun stuff was happening. But then I read the script for this poor little pilot called "The New Wing" nutcase that is. It fulfilled me in such creatively that I didn't have anything left. It also left me exhausted in terms of the amount of time I had to commit to it. I am just now starting to get back into writing directing mode.

Back to the first when you were a party animal...

Party animal (laughs). He's (the reporter) throwing down the party animal card.

Well, you were talking about just going from one project to another and living a carefree life, do you see some?

Sure. There was probably a series of events. I don't think there was any one thing. I say not doing an Oprah (Winfrey) confessional but just getting sober was a big thing for me. It has been (it was) more that I love, love, love getting married, having children. Those intense times are one, at a time and then, last good old-fashioned age, I still had missed time on the planet. Dealing with problems, making mistakes. I think a combination of those things probably got me to the point where I go "Yeah, I'm definitely not a boy anymore."

E-mail the columnist at vsepulve_1000@yahoo.com

'Most Downloaded Woman'

CINDY MARGOLIS, the 'Most Downloaded Woman' on the Internet, is blossoming into one on the TV reality show "Celebrity Cooking Showdown" with a cameo first — posing nude for Playboy. The mother of three told The Associated Press that she finally agreed to pose for the magazine when they called her on her 40th birthday. She said: "Thank goodness for 'Desperate Housewives.' And it's not dead just because you are married and have children."

FRANCOISE Pinaro

'Most beautiful'

She's political prospect given, but it is dispelling Lolita's rumors to no effects that makeover need to shed. All-jacket People magazine by way of announcing that the "all-time-beautiful actress" graces the cover of the mag's "50 Most Beautiful People" issue, on newsstands this weekend. It's her fourth time on this list. And how to come get it.

AP

Spanish version

Meanwhile, Jennifer Lopez is on the cover of People En Espanol's annual "50 Most Beautiful" issue, on newsstands tomorrow. The list includes Eva Longoria, Paula Abdul, Shakira, Jessica Alba and Penelope. J Lo, 35, says she enjoyed cover of People's 100 most beautiful people. AP

RYAN Seacrest

JENNIFER Lopez

TOM Hanks

GOLD Knights

ANGELINA Jolie

CINDY Margolis

World's sexiest

Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston, once voted the world's sexiest women in a magazine poll on "Thursday," have reunited "Friday" friend and Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston are reunited by Robert magazine's PEOPLE editorial staff, not two others' votes. Angelina Jolie Publication Headlines Reuters

Fainting pills

Francisco Pinto wrote a short-lived relationship through after she fainted on the set of one of her TV shows last week.

According to Financial's closest, the story actress last 30 seconds when she was taking the pills in preparation for a big fashion show in June.

Feud on 'Idol'

AP also says, "American Idol" fans are in two camps over singer Clay Aiken and Paula Abdul are not speaking to one another. Abdul calls reports of a feud "ridiculous." I heard it. It isn't true," she says. AP also says Aiken "adored" Abdul. "If this is a different take. "She's not very dysfunctional family. There's nothing bitchy." AP

Tori, again!

Tori and's rumored girlfriend, actress Tori Spelling of "Desperate Housewives," suffered an accident when a light bulb exploded on the set of the ABC series. AP also reported, upon quoting Spelling's magazine. "I was taken to a wonderful ER doctor, and the nurse—wearing a sweet pink uniform—was the right half of the face." Ibid.

Reuters, AP

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiniquin Baptise

Ex-jock tosses out ball for different game

Largest tuna producer said no to son's sports career

RITCHIE C. RIVERA, 32, dreams of playing as a professional for the Philippine Basketball Association. Their six-footer, star center-forward of the University of San Carlos basketball team in the late '90s, already had talks with PBA talent scouts then.

But he gave it up because his father, Rodrigo Rivera Sr., owner of a large tuna canning operation in General Santos City, Cotabato, said "No!" He wanted him not to work for his RD Corp. in the tuna's home capital.

"Dad, my idol, is 70 years old but still influential in my decision-making," Ritchie explains.

Thus, after completing his Business Administration degree from the USC in 1998, Ritchie started his field training in the family's tuna canning operation in Cebu.

From there, he was sent to start RD Tuna Canners, the SG group's tuna cannery in Papua New Guinea which his dad bought in 1995. It was formed on the barrens of land which had fishery and tuna canning factory operations and a coconut plantation.

For five years, Ritchie stayed at Papua New Guinea, a newly independent South Pacific democracy east of Indonesia. Slightly larger than California, Papua New Guinea then was a poor, isolated country with no television even in Port Moresby, the capital.

Ritchie also had to cope with the country's headhunter-tagged terrain with little infrastructure and a monumental task in the island of Bougainville that claimed thousands of lives.

"For five years, I stayed in Papua New Guinea, totally devoid of everything, especially a social life and a girl friend," the city lad, recalls.

But after the initial culture shock, the years of loneliness now strike him as the most beautiful in terms of learning leadership and corporate management.

He also learned the value of an uncorrupt lifestyle, all these he credits to his father's foresight in sending him to the five-star Australian colony.

At Papua New Guinea he spent his time monitoring fishing and tuna canning operations and helping to grow RD Tuna Canners.

After five years, he returned to his hometown, General Santos City, to work for Philbest Tuna Canning Corp., acquired by his father from RFM Corp. He was able to quickly turn the business around with Philbest becoming profitable two years after he took over.

Having applied everything he learned in Papua New Guinea, the part-time executive says his main fulfillment:

"Dyan ang hinanap ko (Here is my fulfillment)," he boasts.

He then became president of RD Manufacturing Group and at the same time executive vice president and chief operating officer of RD Corp. which his father heads.

Today, RD Manufacturing, which employs 2,500 people, is the country's top exporter of canned tuna. It is the only tuna canning business in the Philippines that has its own fishing company and packaging facility.

RD Manufacturing was awarded by the Office of the President as the top export grosser in the agriculture sector in 2003.

In 2005, his company exported some $20 million worth of canned tuna to countries in Asia, Europe and North America.

RD Manufacturing is accredited by the Europe-based EFSIS, the world's premier third party independent inspection and certification service, the International Group Index, and the Bureau of Aquatic and Fisheries Resources of the Department of Agriculture.

Ritchie's latest projects include the P200 million Real State Subdivision in Cotabato, and soon a multimillion food storage facility in Luzon which is targeted to serve storage requirements of food manufacturing companies. It is expected to be the biggest food storage facility in Luzon.

His successes have not gone unnoticed by the business world. Last March 8, 2006 Ritchie received the Entrepreneur of the Year in a socially responsible category award in the annual Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

As RD Manufacturing Group president, he was cited for using his private sector skills and creativity to help his community overcome social or environmental problems.

On top of ensuring employment in General Santos City and nearby areas, the award praised Ritchie's community outreach programs through the RD Foundation. The foundation, which has 50 scholars or pensers, retains livelihood, housing and education for the people, especially the poor.

Awardees in other categories include Lance Gokongwei of Cebu Pacific, Jonathan Jay P. Melegrito of Island Information and Antonio L. Kua of French Baker Inc. Last year, Ritchie's dad, 67-year-old, Rodrigo Sr. also won in the Entrepreneur of the Year awards capturing the age-business category's top honors.

Ritchie says his father was not a stand dad who would give pamper and give sweets to him and his brothers when they were kids. "Instead, he instilled us with discipline and business acumen," he says.

"He did expected him to manage the business well. Management by objectives, in the spirit of management guru Peter Drucker, is a systematic and organized approach that allows management to focus on achievable goals and to attain the best possible results from available resources.

This includes the demanding task of maximizing the productivity and ensuring the well being of the 2,400 employees whom Ritchie considers as family.

Married since 2004, Ritchie has a 2-year-old son. Wife Giselle is now six months pregnant.

Despite his tight work schedule, he says it is that Saturdays and Sundays are strictly family time. At home, he loves fixing things as a hobby, especially cell phones and car accessories. His leisure spot: a golf just like his idol, retired Chicago Bulls basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

When the weekend is over, the 32-year-old Ritchie is again ready to pursue his ultimate dream of transforming his company into a multinational enterprise.

Book reveals untold uses of abaca

NAGA CITY—JUST OFF THE PRESS and launched in the Ayala Museum, Makati City last month, a coffeetable book entitled "Abaca Philippines" and written by a Bicolnon, reveals untold uses of abaca plant like nutritional and economic uses, crafts from the multiple applications of its fiber as a raw material for various functional and decorative products.

The author, Jaleine Villahermo Abrenal, takes readers into a journey of excellent photographs and easy-to-read narratives about plant's history, its origin, native-up and harvested accounts-uses and products.

Supplying 80 percent of the world's total abaca requirement, the Philippines has the strongest natural fiber with the highest tensile strength, which is cultivated in 20 provinces in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

The book, with a collection of 750 photographs in vibrant colors, was printed in Singapore and has had in 192 pages of glossy paper that capture the depths and hues of the subjects...from the photos of dark green abaca plantations to bright colors of abaca fabrics to earth tones of abaca furniture and fashions.

Abrenal, who earned a degree in Economics in the University of the Philippines and now residing in Pasadena, California, has compiled the dynamic and emerging uses of abaca not only for industrial uses but also as a lifestyle through its versatile and beautiful properties present in the plant that are independent to cosmetic and design values and possess distinct value.

The author has also two previous titles to her names, which are "Philippine Resource of A Strong Agent of Foreign Companies" and "E' Outsourcing Opportunities in the Philippines."

She is a member of the board of Region Bicolnon Association of the Philippines, founder of the magazine Germinal Republic and president of Asia Outsourcing Marketing Services.

About her 12 years of experience sourcing indigenous materials such as abaca, sweetes, bamboo and cogon shell, Abaca Philippines has consulted several other sources of abaca fiber commonly sanctioned, like its fabric, cordillera and combinations with other fabrics to draw attention like designs by known Filipinos designers Pedri Torres.

The abaca fabric collection of Abaca Philippines are interesting pieces that define the grace of abaca—rendered in an array of formal attire and home creations.

The coffeetable book shows the elegance of abaca in furniture and fashion—from pillows to lounge chairs, from dividers to coffee tables, and from sofas to loveseats to designers that include Ms. Inez Cabili Goco, Divina, Lucia International, Imagen Lagna and the Eco Fiber at Marketing Corp.

"With its distinctive characteristics, abaca is truly one of the most treasured natural fibers in the world. It is combinations with other fabrics to draw attention like designs by known Filipinos designers Pedri Torres.

She adds that the coffeetable book has been written in the hope that abaca's story, present and prospective, may give an insight into the culture of the abaca from the place stage to the finished products.

Included in the coffeetable book is a list of companies and agencies involved in abaca production and product development in the Philippines.

BEAUTIFUL boxes, as shown (left) and two decorative giant jars made of handwoven abaca fabric, may serve as unique and friendly pieces.

Tracing Henry Sy's steps in selling - I

NEW! shoes sent to be displayed in SM depot semi-cheers.

"When we constructed our first mall in North Edsa in 1985, the Philippines was in the midst of a debt moratorium, drastic evaluation, and experiencing hyper inflation. This economic decline was the key appreciated for the manufacturers of Shoes Inquiry. Many business departments denote because 101. by came from southern. By may have a few department stores and shoe stores, but by area not one of the brand-old heavyweights of that time.

Undeterred by setbacks and armed with sheer determination and optimism, he persisted and opened in 1989 with our department store and a few tenants.

PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
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Greens and grills at the mall

GREENS & GRILLS WILL BE ONE OF THE latest developments in Festival Supermall located in the Filinvest Corporate City in downing Muntinlupa. It features a dining area cum garden concept with a spacious area for Al Fresco restaurants and a fully landscaped zone that will showcase and sell a variety of plants and flowers to those who have the habit of growing foliage.

It will be for those who love to dine out and unwind while having a bottle of their favorite brew. It is also envisioned to become a horticulturist's paradise with its flower gardens and outdoor greeneries.

Festival Supermall is home to numerous food, retail and service shops and features many prominent anchor stores like Shoppers Supercenter, Ace Hom Improvement, Robinson's Department Store and Powerhouse and Act Incubator.

It also has a lifestyle home center called "PARADISE TROVE," a Food Junction, an Amusement Zone (Polar Kraze and Xcite) and a large area (Carousel Court) for holding exhibits and events.

Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Promoting credit responsibility

CREDIT CARDS CARDS HAVE BECOME powerful and convenient tools to manage one's finances if used responsibly. The Credit Card Association of the Philippines, now on its 25th years, reminds applicant as far as the credit card industry and consumer can learn to consumed.

But just what is credit responsibility? Basically, it entails consumer sensitivity with regards to spending behavior and credit card use. A responsible cardholder knows one's income and pays when payment to the.

Moreover, credit responsibility also means being wary of possible fraudulent activities can be committed against him. The public must realize that the cardholder also bears responsibility in the credit card company's pursuit to protect the cardholder against theft and fraud. This is why aside from educating consumers on the advantages of maximizing good credit and providing them with security measures against theft and fraud, CCAP is also working closely with the payment agencies, especially with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for consumer protection. Visa for drive to strengthen Republic Act 8484 or the law against fraudulent use of credit cards to apprehend and penalize fraudsters.

MANUEL Sitoy

'The more you compromise, the more you fall into a hole'

THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH Maintenance Organization (HMO) industry faces a problem — it has no image, at least not the kind it deserves to have.

There is very scant information on how it works.

To a lot of people, the HMO industry has become more of a commercial enterprise instead of one aimed at providing health care.

The Health Maintenance Organization Act of 2004 states: an HMO is an "organized system of managing and securing health care services to validated group(s) of same, a prearranged set of basic and supplemental health maintenance and treatment services, and for an enrolled group of individuals paying a fixed periodic fee." Moreover, HMO, being a "Managed Care" as described by the similar bill, is "a system of health care delivery that influences utilization and cost of services and measures performance with a goal to deliver quality and cost-effective health care."

IntelliCare, an HMO that claims to be trying to do what the law asks it to, leaves the barometer for 10 years now.

Why would the country's top corporations acquire their services? Human resource department heads, company presidents and other decision-makers first look at organizations when deciding on HMO companies. After all, having an HMO is now widely considered a crucial part in the maintenance of human resources.

IntelliCare claims it is ranked as one of the top three HMOs in the country.

The decision to establish an HMO had a lot to do with a calling. IntelliCare president, Mario Silos says, "You can make a lot of money out of other businesses that don't have real value to other people. But the founding group of this company wanted to make a difference, to be remembered that we had a contribution to society, that we affected people positively and in the process made a decent return to our stockholders."

It wasn't a yellow brick road at the start for IntelliCare. Like most businesses in Asia, they were challenged with the many financial debacles in 1997 when companies faced restructuring, downsizing and even closure.

The economic landscape was in foul shape. IntelliCare stuck by the value of its cases or premium per enrollment. They did not succumb to the market penetration strategy that in order to gain ground, one must be prepared to lose first. The result? They grew at 35 percent per annum consistently.

They did not compromise on the basis of their set-point assumptions or on the back of service excellence. "The more you compromise, the more you fall into a hole," Silos asserts. They were a toddler by industry standards and thus had yet to build reputation. Anyone knows one doesn't build a good business reputation overnight. It usually takes a considerable amount of effort, hard work and perseverance.

They did not go for big name clients at once. It was hard, after all.

In its younger days, in-house sales were more significant than broker-generated sales. But IntelliCare eventually turned the tide. For the economic meltdown and growing environment, brokers started to bring in companies such as Intel, Coca-Cola and others more, to account for bidding.

The company realizes that the initial 10 years was just spent to lay the foundation, to establish a reputation and capture a critical mass base required for long-term stability. In the next 15 years the firm aims to achieve market leadership both in quantity and quality of service.

And the company knows they have to innovate to continue into the next decade.

They are now looking into tapping new markets, those which do not yet have the comfort and convenience of having their own HMO to give them the security of health insurance of financial businesses.

In the future, the company wants to move the millions in the unknown marketplace. IntelliCare knows that the concept of the HMO has not yet fully developed and that it still has more than enough room for growth. Beside narrative all, it is function of driving rapidly and the Filipino population is definitely contracting.

One of its possible innovations is the country's launched Surplus Care program designed for OFWs and the families they leave behind here.

Silos asserts that HMOs should be a bridge to a point where health services should be accessible and affordable to all.

But it has to be a bridge that is sturdy.

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ON-SITE AUCTION

REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 1-2, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 3, 2006 (WED) @ 10:30 AM

ON-SITE AUCTION

REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 3-4, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 5, 2006 (FRI) @ 10:30 AM

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REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 5-6, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 7, 2006 (SUN) @ 10:30 AM

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CONVERGYS
Outthinking Outdoing

CONVERGYS CORPORATION MAINTAINS INDUSTRY LEAD WITH CUSTOMER CARE PROGRAMS

The world's largest outsourced customer care company has become one of the world's most awarded global firms. Convergys Corporation (NYSE: CVG) also recently recognized as one of America's Most Admired Companies for the sixth consecutive year by Fortune Magazine. Convergys also just received the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority's award as a Most Outstanding Employer. Accolades aside, the company believes in focusing on what makes it truly great: its people.

From its first roles on March 15, 2000, Convergys has grown from 800 employees to nearly 9,000 professionals in the Philippines alone, after just three years of operations. Its network of contact centers include facilities in Makati, Quezon City, Ortigas Center, Alabang, Cebu City, and a recruitment center in in Bahi, Manila, the only off-site recruitment facility of its kind in the industry.

"The Philippines plays a very important role in our overall global strategy," stated Convergys Executive Vice President, Clint Strelt, during a recent visit to Manila. "We continue to plan for our expansion for the remainder of this year and the next. In fact, we will soon inaugurate our new office for the Philippines along Ayala Avenue in Makati City."

As with all its global offices, Convergys entrusts its key leadership positions to the country's nationals. Convergys provides these highly talented individuals with the same opportunities as their international counterparts. For example, the Convergys Vice President and Country Manager for the Philippines is Marife Zamora, who received the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority's award along with Strelt at a ceremony at Malacanang Palace.

(R-L) President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with Convergys Executive Vice President, Clint Strelt, Country Manager, Marife Zamora and Assets Director, Jojo Llanan.

Convergys offers excellent skills development and training programs for its employees, opportunities for career development, and personal growth that other outsourcing companies are hard pressed to duplicate. Employees are not merely trained for regular day-to-day operations but inculcate the company's values of unparalleled client satisfaction, teamwork, respect for the individual, diversity, phenomenal's trust, corporate citizenship, and integrity.

From Team Leader Development Training to the Management Development Program, Convergys in needs heavily in seminars, workshops, and various other programs that will help an individual fully realize his or her potential. Convergys maintains a Personal Development Center website for team leaders, operations managers, and top executives to access additional training materials anywhere, anytime. The Convergys CI (Continuous Improvement) Portal fosters continuous improvement among employees as they are able to share innovations throughout the organization for transforming the business positively—for the company and for its clients.

Managers also embark on the Business Consulting Learning Series to better understand the client's business and become proactive consultants. Meantime, employees get the first chance to apply for openings within the company and move their careers forward through the Building from Within Program.

To ensure that Convergys trainers meet international quality standards, trainers are sent to the US and other countries for technology transfer. Since 2003, CVG has invested more than P10M to send no Filipino trainers to the US, Canada and India for skills transfer. Filipino national Mela Rai began as a manager in Convergys but luckily worked as Director for Global Communications and Culture Training. The former Cebu-based English teacher now works from Convergys' Jacksonville, Florida office but also flies to other Convergys locations across the globe to train others on effective cross-cultural communication skills.

Convergys agents service customers around the world in various industries: telecommunications, retail, financial services, healthcare, and technology. The work environment is conducive to professional, efficient service with the latest in state-of-the-art automated customer care technologies.

Facilities also include an employee lounge, cyber desk area, and 24-hour clinic with doctor support and immediate ambulance assistance. Employees also receive first aid and self-defense training. Some centers also offer free parking for employees and 24-7 concessionaries in the building such as coffee shops and restaurants. Each facility also has an Incident Command Team and Emergency Management Team ready to assist employees in times of crisis and emergencies. In cases of transportation problems from strikes, typhoons, or floods, Convergys also extends transportation assistance service.

Not to forget the fun part of working in Convergys, an Employee Engagement Team helps create camaraderie and fun activities. Theme-based decorations may appear in workstations and family days, holidays, and monthly celebrations are commemorated.

Building employee relations is undertaken through recognition programs and venues that keep communication lines open across the organization. In the Employee Pulse and Employee Commitment Surveys undertaken in all Convergys locations worldwide, Convergys employees in the Philippines scored the highest employee satisfaction rate.

Convergys has made Focus Group Discussions among employees and even clients a regular affair to gather feedback and address other issues. These candid roundtable discussions have led to improving communication at different levels of the organization.

Convergys also has the Power of One Recognition Program where specially designed cards that feature the company's seven values are exchanged among peers and their managers. A part of the card is given to the recipient's manager and further strengthens relations between employees and their supervisors. The cards are tracked, and recognition is given to those who use and receive recognition through the program. Over 11,000 Power of One cards have been exchanged since the program began in 2003.

The Program Performance Management 100 features a score card and agent dashboard where improvements in performance are rewarded.

The Ci Yahoo! Awards recognize the support and dedication of employees to Convergys' culture of Continuous Improvement.

Convergys Philippines also has the General Manager's Award to recognize professional performance, commitment, and integrity in the work ahead. Since 2003, there have been 30 recipients of this award.

Employee gatherings through the Quarterly Lineage Call, the Leaders Summit, and the Team Leader Town Hall helps communicate company results, initiatives, and strategy to various employee seminars. Aside from the corporate wide intranet with company news and information, Convergys has electronic publications plus a Philippine newsletter, Synergy.

Convergys is currently interviewing applicants at all of its Philippine contact centers as well as its recruitment center located in Manila's University Belt. Persons interested in employment with Convergys should call 8917783 or email their resumes to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Cleofe Bonoti-Fortuno

Budding Leonardos and Amorsolos

KIDS HAVE A PECULIAR WAY of seeing that which is fresh and unadulterated. In their artistic hands, the drab and predictable would become surprising and adventurous.

The unique colors and ingenious lines of artistic children are on display in "As One Children See It" art from the Eyes, Hearts, and Hands of Children," ongoing until May 14, Mother's Day, at La Estella restaurant at Rockwell.

The show is the brainchild of Le Sta'Elle chef Jessie Sanchez and Sheila Ramos, editor

COOL artists Micah, Liam and Lance Ramos

TIFFANY Ly

NICOLE Gerlaan

JEFF Ge

JUSTINE Acosta

CHENOA Jaoja

Your new Marks & Spencer store at
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MARKS & SPENCER

THE FORMER St. Paul College of Quezon City...com granted university status, is part of the five-member St. Paul University System.

ST. PAUL central in University System name in 2004. Present were Dr. Catherine Carandang, CHED-SPUS director; Dr. Judith Burns, president, Harris Memorial School; Br. Roger Perez, CHED executive director; Dr. Nita Rosas, CHED-SPUS evaluation committee; Dr. Ma. Criselda Padolina, CHED commissioner; Sr. Mari Magdalen Torres, SPC-provincial superior and president of the SPUS coordinator units; Fr. Teresita Bayona, SPC-Antigua; Br. Barry Angelo Jones, SPC-Tagaytay; and SPU system chancellor, Sr. Suzette Hilario Bautista, SPC-Manila; Sr. Carolina Agtarap, SPC-Iloilo; and Sr. Nilda Mateo, SPC-Dumaguete

60 years of first-class education

STEEP EDUCATION. HONOR. must know that the best college education can only come from a reputable university. But there is no room better option: a university with one another unusual improved delivery of services, high academic standards and more capable college graduates.

St. Paul University QC (SPUQC), headed by its president Sr. Martha Lucille Bahinan, SPC, is one of the most respected academic institutions in the country, now marking its 60th year after its inception as St. Paul College of Quezon City.

Together with the other member schools of the university system, it continually strengthens its Catholic character, serving the Church and society by being an outstanding leader of transformation.

Aside from SPUQC, the other Brethren schools comprising the university system are St. Paul University Philippines in Tuguegarao City, the mother university, St. Paul University in Dumaguete, St. Paul University in Iloilo, St. Paul University Manila and St. Paul University in Surigao.

St. Paul University System recently celebrated its second anniversary with the theme "Sharing in the Paulinian Identity".

It must be noted that a college or university may be made part of a university system only if at least 50 percent of its tertiary programs offerings have Level II accreditation by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

SPUQC has Level III accreditation for all its programs under the College of Liberal Arts and Communication—proof that the school meets accepted quality standards for education.

So what are the advantages of studying in a university system?

Its complementary, system-wide policies and procedures offer a range of benefits, enabling the fulfillment of bigger goals, such as the following:

Faculty sharing

Sr. Lucille points out that this is one way in which resources are shared between member schools of a university system. Simply put, faculty sharing means a teacher from one member school can also teach in another. The idea is for a teacher or professor to instill the same set of skills, knowledge and competencies in a broader range of students across the different member schools.

"This works perfectly for us because St. Paul University teachers are all highly trained and competent," Sr. Lucille explains.

Program sharing

A program owned by one campus can be offered in another campus by virtue of the program sharing agreement among the SPU System members. Example, SPUP is currently authorized to offer an MA in Education major in Guidance and Counseling. However, members may take the course at the extension classes held at SPUQC.

Easy cross-enrollment

Students may easily cross-enroll between members of the university system. As such, a particular subject taken in one member school is easily credited in another so that the cross-enrollee does not have to take the subjects again in her new school to complete her course requirements.

Also, according to Sr. Lucille, the cross-enrollee will have no problem adjusting to the new environment because the educational standards and systems are similar. Even school policies complement each other. Because of the faculty sharing system, students also become familiar with faces of teachers from other schools, making cross-enrollment a more pleasant experience.

To the core of St. Paul University System, it also helps that all its campuses have uniformly clean, well-maintained and safe surroundings conducive to learning.

Strengthened partnerships with other institutions

The schools have tie-ups with other academic institutions both here and abroad for purposes such as further training for its graduates and the like. On the drawing board is a bridging program with two colleges in Canada, geared toward providing additional training to nursing graduates to equip them with skills and competencies required for overseas jobs.

These collaborative efforts are definitely beneficial to students. Combine this with the schools' modern facilities and up-to-date curriculum and you have the perfect venue for the intellectual, social, moral and spiritual development of young Filipinos.

Autonomous status

St. Paul University System City was also granted autonomous status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) under its ISO 9001:2000 certification. The ISO 9001:2000 is an international quality standard awarded by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to any organization for the efficiency of its operations.

"However, we will not rest on our laurels," Sr. Lucille says. "As a university system, we are given opportunities to improve our curriculum, instruction, research projects, community services and other resources. We are very much committed to maximizing these opportunities in order to continue providing quality education to our students."

In the local academic community, St. Paul University System's excellent programs is blessing ignored by number of graduates who pass the board exam's. Mass Communication and Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM), among others.

The Queen City campus, in fact, continues to break new ground in Filipino education. In 2004, the all-girl college campus added the pre-school department, open to both boys and girls, followed by the elementary department in 2005. For school year 2006-2007, it will finally open its doors to male college applicants by its Nursing and HRM programs to enable more young people to benefit from its quality of education.

EDUARDO, Jr., Ana, Abigail and Rosalia Dy with Lu Sindlo chef Jessie Sinclero

AS THE BUDDING artists look on, guests of honor Virgie Ramos and Socorro Ramos cut the ribbon to open the exhibit signing at Lu Sindlo at the Rockwell clubhouse

JOAQUIN Amorsolo

KATE Dy

Budding Leonardos and Amorsolos

From page C1

there soon are among the exhibiting young artists. "Our children, eleven and eighteen, love drawing," said Ramos, "so we thought of this exhibit to provide a venue to display and showcase their art."

Along the way, the organizers invited other kid-artists to join the exhibit. The result is a nearly sold-out show, and the not-too-surprising revelation that kids paint the darndest things.

Here's a rundown of our budding Leonardos and Amorsolos:

Liam Farrow ("Frogg"), Heah Ramos ("The food and Your Caterpillar"), Lucas Ramos ("It Snow in the Kindow"), Andrea Soriano ("My Favorite Pet"), Nicole Soriano ("Purple House and Orange Bird"), Mia Lorian ("Flowers"), Rhiwa Nicolas ("The Animal Farm"), AJ Pineda ("Mountain Site"), Joaquin Amorsolo ("Sunset"), Juliana Amorsolo ("Hours of Time"), Andrei Antonio ("Serendipity"), Tiffany Uy ("Paradise Cove"), Mike Gamboa ("Unexplainable"), Danielle Gamboa ("My Secret Garden"), Mykel Gamboa ("Under the Sea"). The other kiddie artists are Maggie Chonek, Bobbie Barbiano and Kate and Gus Ilo.

AJ Pineda

GISETTE, Myka and Izzy Lloyd

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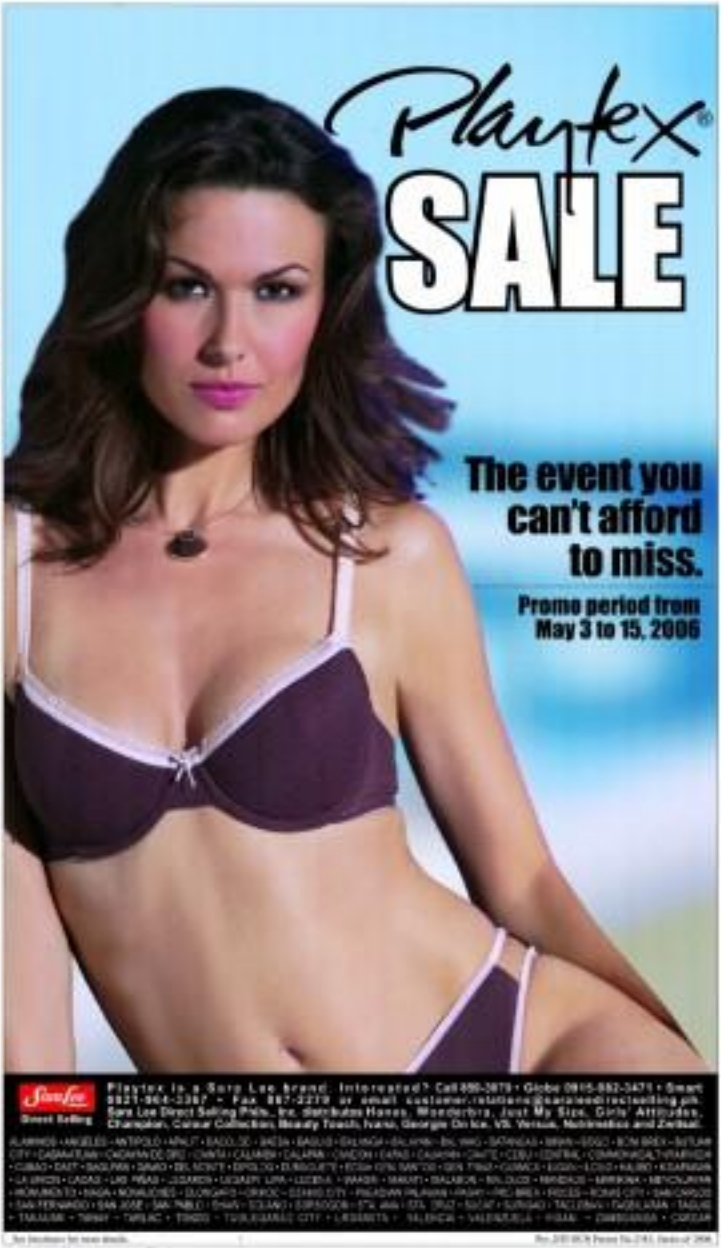

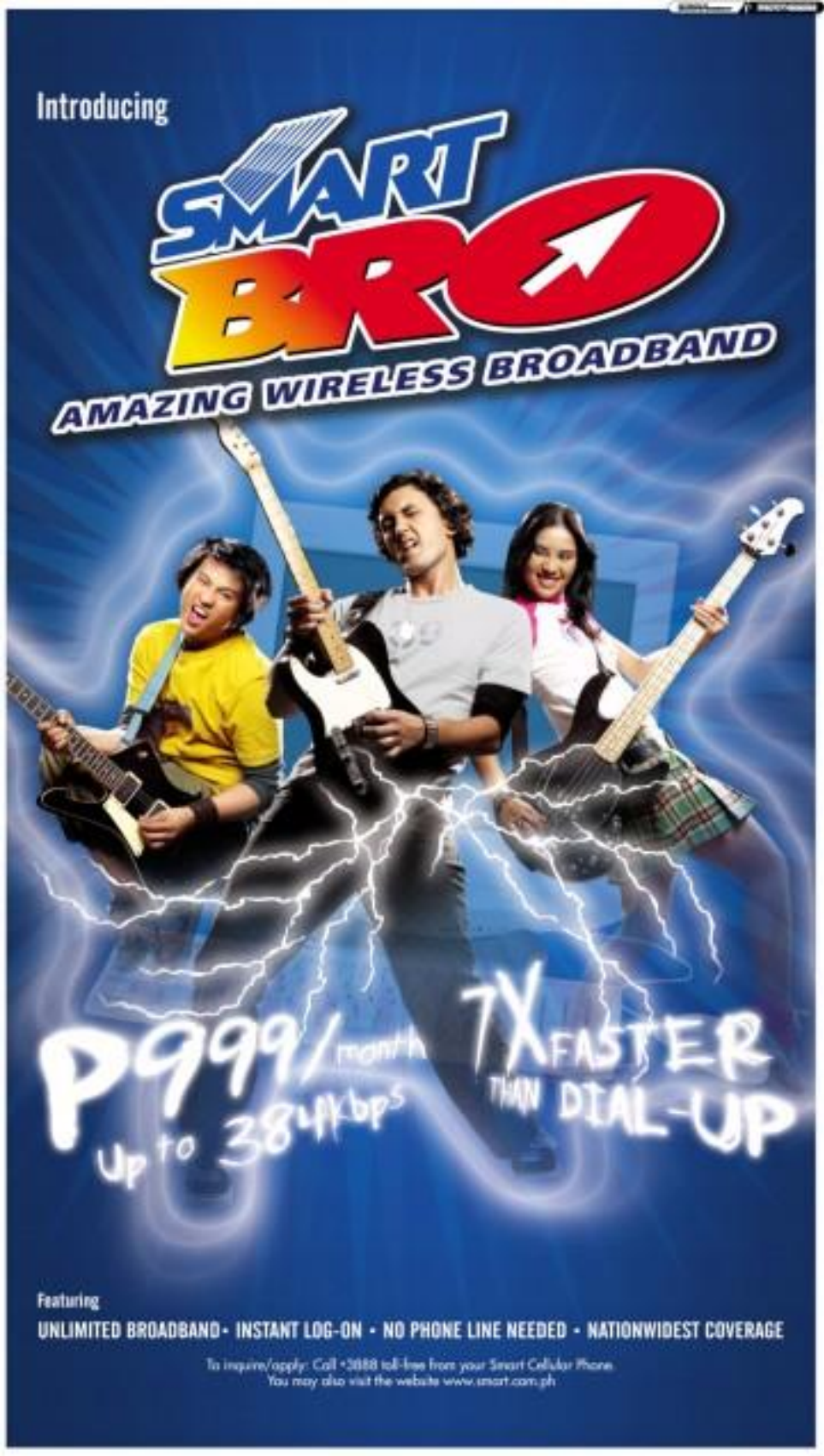
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

LOPEZ-JULIO

Ernest Richard Lopez, son of engineer Ernesto (deceased) and Dr. Milado (née Mendoza) Lopez, will marry Mary Ann Julio, daughter of Ernesto Julio and the former Crescencia Gaoga, on May 17, 5 p.m., at Our Lady of Immaculate Parish Church, Abelarosa Avenue, Quezon City. Reception follows at St. Clarbel Executive Village clubhouse, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The bride will wear a two-piece strapless gown in layers of soft chiffon over duchess satin lining designed by Leonard Pangcoltan.

Event specialist Alex M. Santos of Events Plus will be coordinating the wedding event.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

ZOILO-MALIKSI

Percival Gerard C. Zoilo, son of Pedro and Purificacion Zoilo, will marry Leudevie Anne T. Maliksi, daughter of Gil and Ma. Anatacia Maliksi, on May 13 at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. Reception follows at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

The bride will wear an all-white gown gown with a bubble skirt accentuated with handmade beadses of crystal beads and rhinestones, designed by Aesel Lim Gullas.

The groom will don a Joel Bautista creation of jilla with kerong with patchwork design.

ALUEO-ELBO

Fred Anthony Aqueo, son of lawyer Bonifacio and Grace Aqueo, will wed Jennie Lou C. Elbo, daughter of Lorelie and Cpt. Dennis Elbo, today (April 30) at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral.

The bride will wear an off-shoulder bodice intricately embroidered and appliquéd, designed and executed by Louie Galanza.

Reception will follow at Intsik, San Juan.

CENTENO-BRIGO

Mark Anthony A. Centeno, son of engineer Perfecto and Theodolina Centeno, will wed Rowena E. Brigo, daughter of PAF (GSC) LTC Jose and Fe Brigo on May 6 at the Manila Cathedral. Wedding reception will be held at the Mayfair Ballroom, Manila Hotel. Leonard Go designed the wedding gown.

SEE-CHONG-MUÑOZ

Will S. See and Eileen Cheng-Whalen will wed on May 14, 4 p.m., at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral. Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at 7 p.m. at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan.

ONG-LIM

Andrew Ong and Charlie Lim will wed on May 14, 1 p.m., at San Sebastian Church in Manila. The bride's gown was designed by Albelo Tan.

WELL-RESPECTED Philip and Dr. Helen Yap

EDGE Boy and Dusty Ledesma

CEBU City Mayor Tommy Osmeña and wife Margot Yaeger

LUCKY Prince and Bacolod's Fire Lady Rita Lemoncito

JOE and Edith Villanueva

BOMBOM and Mimi Zayco

THE BEAUTIFUL Soutiérez couple, Rowena Lopez and husband Neil Lizares

WITH THE ANGELS (L-r) Jennifer Nicole, Anna and Gemina Angeles, Dolores Lopez, Hernan Lopez Jr., PJ Lopez, Mommy with Rara Angeles

WITH THE GROOM'S (l-r) Jennie Mira, Melissa, Maureen, Boy Hilo, Mimi Lizares and Bryan Mira

Romantic dream come true

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex ranchagan

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE BACOLOD'S ALTA society had seen a wedding of such a beautiful couple, palangga.

After seven years of having one only to reach others, the romantic dream of popular young good-looking Talisay Vice Mayor Neil Lizares and gorgeous young lawyer Rowena Lopez finally came true. Both are achievers, brilliant in their fields of endeavor. They are civic leaders and assets to their community, palangga.

In typical romantic circumstances at the stroke of 6 p.m. at the Queen of Peace Church in Talisay, Neil took for his bride Rowena who, by the way, was the only young lady included by the Philippine Tatler in its list of top Negrense personalities for our special issue on People You Should Know in Bacolod, darling.

Rowena looked like a radiant princess in her true-to-past Paloma Ramos Okiat wedding gown and a lovely heirloom diamond choker. But she also looked every inch the modern bride, sure of herself and full of positive attitude, as she walked down the aisle.

Awesome

The tasteful and select list of ceremony principal sponsors consisted of southern heroes and luminaries Amos Bahon, Charrie Bernardino, Sandra Bunag, Ira Dayle, Annie Mandebak, Tess Cabot, Hilda Escalona Lizares, Lydia Garcia, Ann Maria Lopez, Cyley Lopez, Sergo Olondriz, Amelia Lizares, Francis Jimenez, Raul Gamboa, Rosayda Lopez and Arlene Ledesma.

Simultaneously, Rowena's happy parents, Manny Lopez and his wife Betty L., saddled appwingle Nelly mom and dad, Boy Hilo Lizares and wife Rosario Dominica L., were quite overwhelmed that their first boy had to be beside non getting married.

The chi-chi southern produced an filled the lobby of the plush El Dulce Hotel for the grand wedding reception of Bacolod's beautiful couple. As the social heavyweights made their entrance, cocktails and aperitifs were passed around the elegant La Pena Ballroom, which had a purple-decorated with cushion decor, roses and lilies, beautifully enlighted up by floral driver Tessa Lacson and choreographer Millie Alladyhe, palangga.

BACOLOD tummy's rocking hostess Lucy Lizares V with son Luigi, Andrea and Spicy Tongco

DELIA Granada and Annalou Tenkai

STYLISH beauty Frances Lopez Montero

JAPAN Limcaoco

Internationl jetsetter Mirasol Granada made a deep dual entrance in a matelot dress, adding flash to the food act. Jetsetter Chita Lopez came with bit ladyfriend, Sacramento Pilar Abesamis, who only had eyes for her adorable aqua boots.

There were also loads of jetsetters who flew in from different parts of the United States, much to the delight of Bacolod society.

As the loving couple made their entrance, all eyes on them, the new Mr. and Ms Neil Lizares were greeted with applause. The well-chosen dinner menu was excellently done by Divine's tri-fish under the watchful eye of the hotel's main cuisine of substance and taste. Delia Granada, as host, palangga.

The toasts were endless, as well as the clinking of glasses to request the couple to kiss. The couple obliged with delight. Then the couple's memorable occasion went flushed on the screen to everyone's enjoyment.

To our beautiful couple, Neil and Rowena, you are definitely meant to live happily ever after.

Cheers, palangga!

DIVINE Jimenez with her steady escort, Ramon Aquino

NANETTE and Milo Boy Lizares

SEN. Serge Osmeña with the bride flowrow another father Manny Lopez

GEORGETTE Sanchez, Irene Carlos, Honey Regalado, Carla Lacson and Jenny Diaz

QUINNY Bunag, Binky Yap, Talisay City Mayor Eric Gerosan, Marnie Bunag and Jennie Serrano

Las Piñas parish is 30 years old

I LEARNED ABOUT OUR LADY OF SIERRA Parish in Philamlife Village, Las Piñas, in the '90s when Fr. Tony Rosales was parish priest (1990-1998). My friends and I attended their Masses on Tuesdays.

The church is beautiful. Though inside Philamlife Village, it serves 12 other villages in Las Piñas. One time, when I needed something urgently, I asked Our Lady of Sierra for help. The prayer was answered. In 1997, I joined other pilgrims to Fatima, Portugal, to say "Thank you."

This year, the parish is marking its great anniversary. 30 years of evangelization and celebration of God's word. Fr. Ernani Bueno-ita, parish priest, leads the nine monthly Novena Masses. Different priests will celebrate each monthly Novena Mass.

On May 13, Msgr. Felipe Bishop Pinlac Buenaventura will officiate in the 6 p.m. concelebrated Mass celebrating the 85th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. The Charismatic Community Music Ministry will sing in the Mass that will be preceded by a grand cortege at 5 p.m.

The other Novena Masses will be held at 6 p.m., June 11, with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, as celebrant; July 13, Fr. Jerry Salvado, OCarm; Aug. 13, Fr. Ernani Cruz; and Sept. 11, Msgr. Fidelino Aragon. A Novena Mass will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 6-14.

Bishop Socrates Villegas will celebrate the Parish Foundation Day Mass at 6 p.m., July 30. Fr. Ramon Dantoga, whose family lives in Philamlife Village, will say Mass on Oct. 14, sequence of the Novena.

Former parish priests helped make the community grow. They are Msgr. Josefino Ramirez (1982-1984); Fr. Eugenio Lacuata (1984-1990); Fr. Benito Lim (1990-1991); Fr. Modesto Antolino (1998-2002); and Msgr. Manuel Sebastian (2002-2005).

The "corona de fuegos" is composed of Blanca Sulma, president and hermano mayor; Nora de los Santos, vice president; Donna Tiongson, secretary; Placida Soriano, treasurer; Helen Andres, auditor; and members Rosario Vicente, Isabel Cuenca, Dina Martin, Hedwigenia Guevarra, Rudy Mobat, Herminio Rivera, Rhoda Ella, Trinidad Villanueva, Marivic Espaquiar and Lucky Cruz.

Cagsaw fiesta

Cagsaw, Bauco Ilaja, will mark the feast of Nuestra Senora Pastora on May 1 in the century-old church of the Three Kings Parish, now for national shrine.

Bishop Ildefonso Santos led the celebration of the 42nd canonical consecration of the Virgin and the anointing with a High Mass at 9 a.m. Concelebrating were Msgr. Elmer Magallanes, parish priest, and other priests of the diocese.

April 26 was also the 30th anniversary of the declaration of the church as the national shrine of the Nuestra Senora Pastora. The four Dops John Paul II sent a special message from the Vatican in 2006.

Wednesday's Mass was attended by the Ilaimaya Caballeros de Virgen Divina Pastora. The commandment of the Canonical Coronation at 2 p.m. was followed by a procession around the town.

After an entire minor the Virgin last Sunday, Benedicto "Bayo" Flores has been receiving requests for redemption, donated by the Ramos de Nuestra Senora Virgen Divina Pastora.

Exhibit

Fr. Vicente "Sup" Lim, curator of the Museo Diocesano at Bacoor's Church, Molino, is covering Mary devotions to the children of the images of Mary in her different roles. May 7-14, Allan Tengco is bringing his image of Our Lady of Ballocura (the Virgin Mary dressed as a doctor), which is venerated in Spain.

Fr. Johann Sebastian, parish priest of the Sacred Heart Parish in Santo Pinaod, San Ildefonso, Bulacan, says the images depict the reference of Mary in all aspects of social concerns. The exhibit is in observance of the Year of Social Concern declared by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Rosary shrines

The Ortigas family headed by Rafael Ortigas is building shrines of the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary, from the Edsa Shrine to Antipolo, to make people more aware of the life and Passion of Christ. At 6:15 p.m. today, Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes will open the first stop depicting the mystery of the Annunciation at Edsa Shrine.

Other stops are Ortigas building in front of Meralco, the Valenzuela, Fernando Kanlo, Bishop of Jesus, TV Circa property. Jesus is brought to the Temple and Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Ortigas. Jesus is found in the Temple.

Still known as the Rosary Mansion made the last relief of the different mysteries.

TV show

"M.O.M." as acronym for "Miracles of Mary," is a television show produced by 4000 Promotions Inc., a small private company under Ben P. Cunlao.

PRO Orbitel Taisala as director and Meng Cunlao as executive producer, "M.O.M." 4 is scheduled to air 11 a.m., May 13, on Channel 9. It needs sponsors.

To be featured are first Lady of Guadalupe in Valladolid, Negros Occidental; Nuestra Señora de Gua in Santos; and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Pandan Village, Mandaluyong. To help, please text 0920-9227316.

May 20 is the feast of Our Lady of the Visitation, hence the scheduled showing.

Cory in Macau

Former President Cory Aquino was invited to Macau by Bishop Jose Lai for the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. A Filipino Mass will be held May 13 in St. Lawrence Church.

Those who want to join the Philippine delegation can call Atlanta Travel at 521-1011 or the Macau Tourism Board.

Basic Sects

Tridoum Manes will be held to mark the feasts of Our Lady of Bigkay Awa, patroness of Manes, at 6:30 p.m., May 6; at 6 p.m., May 7; and 6:30 p.m., May 8 at Holy Family Parish on Medel Sobra Street, Bicutan District.

Milestones

VELVY DEBUT

Kristine Anchel Sapitan Mesay, only child of Roland and Leonora Mesay, will celebrate her 18th birthday on May 6 at the Centennial Hall of Manila Hotel. She is a sophomore student at De La Salle University-Manila taking up Mass Communication.

AMEDA DEBUT

Jean Leah Andrade Jr., daughter of Victor and Jean Leah Andrade of Cubao, Quezon, celebrated her debut recently at the People's Quadrangle, Saunggue City. She is a freshman Tourism student at Batangas State University. Her gown was designed by Ernesto Macaranduang.

MANGOSING ANNIVERSARY

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Abraham and Angela Mangosing celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently by renewing their vows at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, San Marcelino St., Manila. Reception followed at Villamor Air Base Officers' Club.

YU DEBUT

Jazmen Cyrene de Jesus Fu, daughter of David and Lora Yu, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at the Vinzons ballroom of Hotel Philippine Plaza. She wore a Jeremie Bellona gown in white silk organdy with sequin accents and floral-beads.

VERGARA-ATIENZA

Lorena Vergara, son of Eugenio Millante Sila de Vergara, married recently Mae Atienza, daughter of Leonardo and Rolanda Atienza, at San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City. Reception followed at El Grande Residencia Hotel and Resort in San Carlos, Lipa City. Wedding coordination was by Jun S. Magana.

TEJADA-BUGENCIO

Jenifer Tejada, son of Jack and Felicitas Tejada, tied the knot recently with Bettina Bugencio, daughter of lawyer Gerardo and Rosalina Bugencio, at San Ignacio Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception was held at Tamayo's Café in Intramuros.

Purely Personal

Josephine Barcenas

The beautiful church covers 13 other villages in Las Piñas

Kissing (first) cousins

DEAR EMILY,

I never thought I would be writing you about a secret I have been keeping for so long. My boyfriend and I were in our late 20s when we first saw each other. There was an undeniable attraction but there was also fear.

Against all odds, he entered my life and became an item. Our relationship blossomed and grew strong despite adversity. We always managed to work things out, always believing love can conquer all.

After two years, he asked me to move in with him and I did. We've been nearly inseparable ever since.

The past 6½ years of our life together has been the best.

But not a man has ever been so open with me about his sacrifices and suffering in his workplace. He said his officemates bombarded him with questions about his girlfriend, why they had not seen her visit the office; why he's not married yet at his age—he's a professional in his mid-30s.

His gender had also become an issue and he began to feel the pressure from friends and family.

One night, no longer able to take the years of constant pressure about our relationship and loaded questions about his gender, he decided to break up with me saying it was the only solution he could think of to ease the tension between him and his officemates, friends and family.

I was so shocked because I built my dreams, goals, and future with him.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that, after all the years we've been together, he would think of letting somebody from me. We've all in so much to lose with each other but the thing that binds us together is what will keep us apart.

We are first cousins. We even have the same surname.

I know there are a number of rich families, Chinese and Muslims, that condone partnerships like ours to protect their wealth.

Is there any man we can be openly accepted by society? Our families are devout Catholics and telling them the truth would definitely bury them.

What are the legal and moral implications of our situation?

MS SERENDIPITY

Love can be described as blind, sublime, illegal, passionate in the life, all-consuming, nerve-wracking, intoxicate and aching, just wrenching. It is a sense you feel is non-sense, don't preoccupation a human being will be subjected to in his/her lifetime. It is in the most troublesome of all emotions ... besides being the most cumbersome.

As you were saying ...

History is filled with first cousins, uncle-niece unions among the royals and the very rich. Somehow marriages among them are accepted because of the immense wealth involved.

Your problem, dear girl, is you and your cousin probably don't belong in the "value system" (investment and theirs) ... would tacitly be influenced by the sweeping tongues of friends and family alike.

The only reason society frowns on first cousins marriages is the high probability of congenital defects such as mental retardation in the would-be children of these unions. Other than that, there are no moral or legal impediments in the first degree.

Six years of bilateral partnership is (His die) and (go to jail) a deal.

Four boyfriend-girlfriend-cousin should stand his ground and announce your relationship to the world if he really loves you. The saying "love conquers all" is quite realistic be trained and true to each other.

If you feel that for fear you two are totally serious, they'll leave an ornament that to remain in your hearts' desire.

Be exceptionally strong together to withstand the turmoil. Like a raging river that still find ways to reach the ocean, your love should be able to find all obstacles—regardless.

E-mail the author at emailyhp@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer Lifestyle, 7/F Inquirer Building, 127 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines, 1227. Fax: 896-6160. Please include your full name, address and telephone number. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Karakol in honor of Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli

THE PROVINCIAL EMMY HIGUIG Ministry of Fr. Cornie S. Legaspi sponsored its annual Karakol in honor of the Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli on May 1 in Binakayan, Cavite.

This devotion to the Sto. Bambino, Manila's counterpart in the Philippines, Mass was introduced to the Philippines by Fr. Cornie, well-known healing priest, who was captivated by the story behind the Bambino.

On May 1, the Karakol celebration started with Holy Mass at the chapel of the Coming Home Retreat and Meditation Center in Binakayan, Cavite, after which a dancing procession will proceed to Freedom Park in Rawil, Cavite, where concluding ceremonies will be held. There will be awards for best costume and best dance group.

At sundown, the image of the Sto. Bambino, together with that of Mary Health of the Sick, will return in formal procession to the Coming Home Retreat and Meditation Center, currently the shrine of both devotions.

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2. For a faster way, simply text select BPI Express Banking Center found in malls and other convenient locations and present your school enrollment form or official receipt and your BPI Express Credit card to be swiped at the terminal. Once approved, reimbursement will be credited to your BPI account the next banking day.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

IN THE NEW season of his television show, Wright looks right at home in a bike as on a camel and other modes of transportation.

A Wright honorable gentleman

STORY ON PAGE E2

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A Wright honorable gentleman

By Micky Fenix

WHAT YOU SEE IS INDEED WHAT YOU get.

Ian Wright, that irongirl globe trekker, our favorite travel companion, is as hilarious, naughty and energetic up close as he is on screen.

The accent is clear, which we succeed mimic is from Ipswich, his hometown. He comes into the press conference carrying a cup of Karen Mok, the Hong Kong actress with whom he spent some time for his new Discovery Travel and Living show, "VIP Hookmob with Ian Wright."

The television personality was dressed in a tuxedo, as befits his new series that has him hobnobbing with the rich and famous. Asked if he had discarded his backpacker persona, he declined, "Those days are over. Backpackers are for losers!"

Well, with that he snagged for us the way he does on TV, taking on that naughty, adolescent James Bond-ish look.

Everyone wanted to know how he felt about spending weekends with some of the richest people in the world. He described the experience as "the other end of the sky" and "very middle-of-the-day."

Did he make any social gaffes? "Probably last turning up" was his answer. Not remembering previous comments. But to the source of footloose, he said, they were too drunk to notice.

From the preview of some scenes, Wright looked right at home in a limousine or a canoe. He finds it's harder for the rich to get down to a lower level because they're not as mobile as

Rule makers

He went on about class difference, how both the rich and the working class were about with their behavior having to explain anything. And that it's the middle class that made the rules about how to act.

He said the question set him off, then he stood up to take a lecturer's stance. The bit of acting is here he usually puts the pretzel in his mouth and he uses the comic touch to lighten an otherwise serious conversation.

Wright was not coy only presenting this new series from afar; one was of the attendees of the World Gourmet Summit in Singapore. It "blew our minds Ian Wright" was said our weeks before. Some 800 people attended what was billed as "The Food Olympics."

At the press conference, however, he first talked about the most awful food he had eaten. These weren't overly genial appetizers to the very good lunch at the Chiang Mousse, an exclusive club in Singapore. He scrapped past diverse others he recalled for "disgusting" carnage.

There was the rancid shark in Iceland. Wright said the recipe was "put shark in hole, leave it there for eight months, stick it in a shed to dry for four months, eat it when it becomes moldy with the shark taste." He said a concession in Reykjavik served it "just for locks."

Massacre

Then there was sea cucumber in Canada. His description of the dish was like a massacre. "Sliced all over, sometimes squeezed out in a mixer, and it had fur and was brown." So called it Canada fare.

Worst food in mankind? He considers it possible to get good food in the big cities but throughout the country, it's "rubbish fast food." A candidate even told him that to get a proper sit-down meal, they should go to McDonald's.

Mongolia holds a special place in his gastronomic memory because it was there where he was handed a dung's eye as honored guest. "It just stays in your mouth," he complained.

You would tell he would have preferred to be given the eye than Mongolians give to their sockeye cheeks.

And then food underneath in Cambodia. "That was just a substitute for spider that was even more special. He asked to imagine that "as you bite the legs coming in you. I don't know what's worse."

You'd have to keep in mind that Wright is a vegetarian. So his willingness to taste all that seems to be the acid test of his adventurous soul.

As to good food memories, he mentioned fish in Norway. And anywhere in Southeast Asia when one can always "get a decent bowl of noodles." Not likes Italian pasta, especially is intense noodles.

Shipping RP

Mentioning Southeast Asia, of course, led to the questions of why he hadn't been to the Philippines. He couldn't say but he did know another group that did the show was here.

We hope that whoever plans for him will next highlight its enormous cuisine.

Host of what he liked was at the dinner at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. The noodle soup was Thai-style with minced chicken and coriander. There was the very English fish & chips and roasted chicken of beef with Yorkshire pudding. The dessert ended with fresh American desserts.

Guests went through six wines, from sparkling to sauvignon blanc (two kinds), chardonnay, pinot noir and grenache-mourvedre.

The menu was easily simple but people didn't seem disappointed because they came to see Wright and he was a showman during lunch, answering the many questions, mugging, totally being himself.

The weekend with Mok in Hong Kong airs at 10 p.m., May 7, on Discovery Travel and Living.

Five other episodes follow every week featuring the real and reunited of Carnarvons in England, the Mewar royal family in India, Domecq family in Spain, Simon Woodroffe on a boathouse in the United Kingdom, and Florence and Daniel Caillaud in France, specifically the Chateau Haut LaFite in Bordeaux.

But whether he is returning from a backpacking journey or a ravelled weekend with the rich, Wright's perfect himself from stuck in having been with his mate or in the monster ball with a rollet that makes

Wright is married with two children, sounding like any parent who couldn't believe the choices their kids make, he declined one of them wanted to be in the military. It was accompanied by the appropriate facial expression.

He advice for the adventure traveler: "Don't think about it, buy a flight ticket tomorrow and then worry about it on the plane. That is the hardest step."

Just goes to show that Wright hasn't really been to this country. Our hardest step is to get a visa.

AT A SPANISH fiesta with the Domecq family

WRIGHT employs a comic touch to lighten an otherwise serious conversation.

The TV host has put his backpack in storage and given his tuxedo an airing to hobnob with the rich and famous

Around the world on Discovery Channel

• Hong Kong: Karen Mok

See against the beautiful Hong Kong skyline, Ian Wright is invited to watch actress Karen Mok do what she does best—be Karen Mok. Throughout the episode, he watches her fashion shoot, highlights her favorite haunts, plays the voice of an animated animal in a movie, eats her pudding and fights her fetishes. (Airs May 7, 10 p.m.; encores May 8, 10 a.m.)

• UK: The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon

In this episode, Ian Wright is invited to spend a weekend with Lord and Lady Carnarvon at Highclere Castle in the English countryside. Presented with his own personal stash, Ian must prove himself before he can handle a gun. As he waits nervously for the big occasion, a battle tends to his needs and he is wined and dined in luxury. (Premieres May 14, 10 p.m.; encores May 15, 10 a.m.)

• India: The Mewar Royal Family

Ian Wright returns to a more leisurely pace when he travels to Udaipur, India, as guest of honor to Princess Hariguel and the Royal Family of Mewar, one of the world's oldest serving dynasties. Any fraction of grandeur that Ian has not yet put to use when he attempts to play polo, plays cricket and must give an appropriate birthday gift to the prince on his birthday. (Premieres May 21, 10 p.m.; encores May 22, 10 a.m.)

• Spain: The The Domecq Family

Ian Wright spends a weekend with the Alvear Domecq family and, in addition to sherry, gets to taste the lifestyle of Spanish aristocracy. It is Fiesta Week in Jerez de la Frontera, and although he hoped to spend most of his time alongside the Domecqs, serving in the crowds, Ian must take part in another family activity—bullfighting. His weekend stay at the magnificent ranch Los Alfonsinos also turns his eyes the stunning culture of horses and bulls. (Premieres May 28, 10 p.m.; encores May 29, 10 a.m.)

• UK: Simon Woodroffe

Ian Wright spends a weekend on water when he is invited to stay aboard British entrepreneur Simon Woodroffe's houseboat, which is moored along the river Thames in London. Founder of 'Yo Sushi, Yotel and various other business ventures, Simon introduces Ian to "his" London and soon has Ian climbing scaffolding, swimming in Park Path (during the winter), kiteboarding and kidding punks. The fun also drives to Weymouth to sail one of the famous parties on water with part of the harem crew in England. (Premieres June 4, 10 p.m.; encores June 5, 10 a.m.)

• France: Florence and Daniel Cathiard

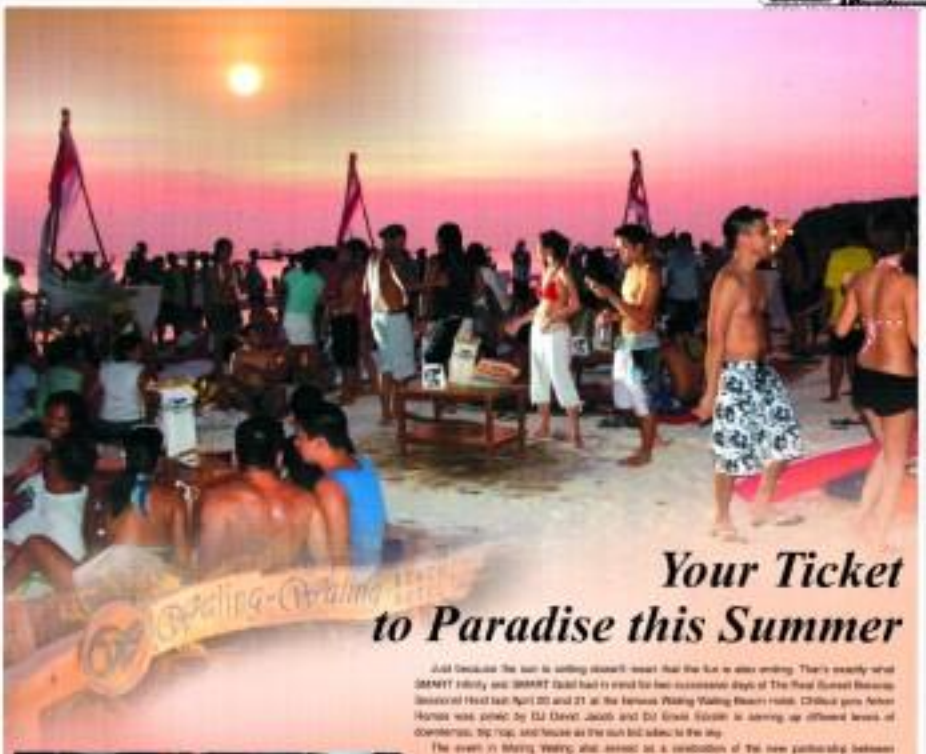
Englishman Ian Wright goes to France in this episode for an exclusive weekend with Florence and Daniel Cathiard and family. Set in the magnificent Château Haut Lafitte in the Bordeaux countryside, Ian spends the weekend pampered in a way only the French could achieve...with wine, wine and more wine.

However, armed with some basic rules gone Ipswich, Ian feels he could be in for a long weekend as he realizes that the proper has other things in store for him. Host hungry forbidden. What was potentially a beer drinker's nightmare turns into a cultural revelation with Ian Wright ultimately being enthroned into the Bordeaux Society of Wine Wine drinkers. (Premieres June 11, 10 p.m.; encores June 12, 10 a.m.)

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — SMELL TEST

answer on page C6



Your Ticket to Paradise this Summer

Just because the sun is setting doesn't mean that the fun is also ending. That's exactly what SMART Infinity and SMART Gold had in mind for two successive days of The Real Sunset Boracay Session at Head last April 20 and 21 at the famous Waling Waling Beach resort. Chillout gets Action Homes was joined by DJ David Jacob and DJ Erwin Edralin in serving up different levels of downtempo, trip hop, and house as the sun bid adieu to the sky.

The event in Waling Waling also served as a celebration of the new partnership between SMART Infinity, SMART Gold, Southeast Asian Airlines (SEAIR), and Ray-Ban. Only SMART Gold can give you free sunset sessions featuring Manila's best DJs. For SMART Infinity subscribers, the VIP treatment is something that they've gotten used to. Not only were SMART Infinity subscribers treated to "The Real Boracay Sunset Sessions" for free, they also got complimentary drinks and free entrance to the party of the year. Had Kanin in Boracay? Who else but SMART can offer VIP service like that?

DJs Anton Ramos, Erwin Edralin, David Jacob and Marshall Dano have SMART Infinity's Twin Advantage

Cinnie Guerra: 30 Days and 24 hour

Bonny King

Ana Cortes

Rob Cua and Michelle Penticuan

DJ David Jacob at the turntable

Nicole Hemandez and Katty Mina

Luke Jokars

From the moment Big Fish and SMART landed in Boracay everyone knew that the party was coming with them. The difference this time around was the presence of the all-seasons DJs and the tie-up with SEAIR and Ray-Ban. After becoming so in-demand for his skill on the turntable, DJ Anton has served as purveyor of house and electronica both in the Philippines and across Asia. In fact, his "The Chillout Project" CDs are acknowledged as the largest selling electronica/dance compilations in the country to date.

For his part, DJ Erwin Edralin has been a staple of the Manila party scene for well over a decade now. Unique and often described as classy and subdued, his music never fails to be playful, funky, soulful and deep. Though based in Hong Kong, DJ David Jacob has become a frequent visitor to our shores in the past few years. An entrepreneur who doubles (and stabbles) at DJing, David's hawaii influence can be regularly heard at clubs like Embassy and Bed.

The beachfront at Waling Waling transformed into a place where party denizens could relax and (what else?) chill out of course. As DJ Anton manned the booth for two days and ably weaved his musical web, heads were nodding, bodies moving, and everyone couldn't help but groove to the beat. On the second day of "the Weekend", DJs David and Erwin eventually took their turns on the turntable, and there was no letdown in the level of coolness. If this is any indication, SMART Infinity and SMART Gold will definitely cater to all your needs, flying you to the beach of your dreams wearing the coolest shades and listening to the smoothest rhythms in the process.

The party continued past dusk in Boracay!

SMART Infinity and SMART Gold subscribers who buy select Ray-Ban sunglasses can get free tickets to either Boracay or Palawan via SEAIR. On the flipside, SMART Infinity and SMART Gold subscribers who purchase SEAIR tickets heading for Palawan or Boracay get select complimentary shades from Ray-Ban.

SMART Infinity

SMART GOLD

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Summer packages

The Manila Management and Leadership Development Center (MMLDC) is offering summer packages. They include the Family Weekend Getaway, summer weekend Cookout, "[illegible]" a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, session rate at P1,000 and inclusive of soup, salad or rice, May to 1st Week. Visit its hotel's stall in the Lady of Good Voyage shrine at the Antipolo Cathedral on May 14 is the Mother's Day. Rizal, MMLDC activities coordinator/project facilitator Fernando Manilla Council of May, with [illegible] Reservations, Call 6228111. E-mail: mmldc_marketing@ymail.com.ph or visit www.mmldc.com

Medical tourism

The Department of Tourism hopes to make medical/health services one of the country's tourism attractions in its drive to attract more visitors in the next five years. President Macapagal-Arroyo has created a special task force on medical tourism that would coordinate efforts of three government departments — Tourism, Health, and Trade and Industry. Among the services that are expected to be promoted are cosmetic surgery and hospital/medical services.

'Go' Fares

Travelers can now make their booking online for Cebu Pacific's e-[illegible] "Go" fares, the year-round low-cost airfare. Through the new website www.cebupacificair.com, GEB's "Go" fares to 10 select domestic destinations like Manila (Dp) to Cebu, the "Seafood Capital of the Philippines," are reduced by as much as 50 percent. Call 7290888.

BARKADAHAN PACKAGE

Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club is offering the Barkadahan Getaway package in partnership with the new Boracay Air service until May 31. With a minimum of eight persons, a host rate per only P6,375 per person at the resort and P3,200 each for airfare on Boracay Air. The package includes three days, two nights stay at Boracay Hideaways in Fairways & Bluewater and breakfast. Boracay Air, operated by International Airlines, has four flights daily from Manila to Caticlan and vice versa. Call 633-1911 to 15.

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Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City everyday from 9am to 6pm. ALURE LTS Nos. 10412, 10484 and 10498

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Text and photos by Charlie V. Meral

BARELY two weeks before it was officially opening time, Europe's hitherto cold winter looked like it wasn't about to go swiftly just yet.

But denizens of the German capital were undaunted. Bundled up in their thermal wear and layers of winter clothing, they swarmed to the outdoor counters of the Swedish shop H&M on Kurfürstendamm, Berlin's main shopping avenue, with lines full of pasty-spring wear as if on a primitive cue to burn up the frigid air with fumes.

In whose vein I saw the Philippines' Department of Tourism, quite opportunistic—and not without trace of wishful thinking, too—was showing bordering-rainy images of the beach on a video wall at the International Tourism Bourse in Berlin. After all, the Philippines is not alone in the quest to seduce tourists to rainy days, beautiful beaches and warm tropical smiles this encashment.

Biggest fair

ITB is the world's biggest annual travel fair and you're not exaggerating, with some 10,000 exhibitors from 180 countries. Logistically speaking, the Philippines' participation this year was quite modest next to its Asian neighbors alone. But in the country's pavilion in Fair Europa, one of its more crowded tourist markets, it looked like it wasn't just the Germans who had undisputed spirits, and it was easy to see why.

While China, Korea and Japan (outside the Philippines' biggest tourist markets, respectively) continue to be considered by Europe is considered its prime markets, with guests staying an average of 21 days, comfortably longer than from most any other region, despite spending said long-term profits.

The country has been on a roll since it emerged from the tourist slump that began in the late '90s as a result of the severe and wider shutdown among other factors. Europe arrivals to Asia alone rose up by 20 percent compared to January 2005's as was a record growth that saved months in massive tragic build-

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MINDANAO Gaisano Mall Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro | SM Davao

* Movieworld coupon entitles holder to one free movie ticket upon purchase of any regular movie ticket worth P150 worth of tickets at the Cinema Snack Express. Coupon valid until August 31, 2006.
** January and February 2006 issues.

The SUN Shop

Promo Period: April 15 - May 31, 2006. For BIR Permit No. 8992. Series of 2006.

EUROPEAN guests get free training lessons from the Bayanihan dancers.

MEMBERS of the House Committee on Tourism, Reps. Florencio Mendiones (Aklan, Miles Andrew Rocco of Manila and Antonio Alvarez of Palawan.

VENUS Tan, DOT Arcadian director for Central and Eastern Europe; Consul Gen. Leslie Baja and Ambassador Delia Albert (with orange scarf).

FILIPINO models dressed by Pinoy Pilipinas, Bino Fernandez, Inno Sotero and Raja Laurel for the reception held for Russian tour operators.

From Russia and Germany, with love

Story page F1

THE PROPOSED Philippine center on Panoramic Lane, near the prestigious Kempinski Hotel in Berlin.

ITB guests sample the massage services of the salon Richard Biscalluz and Rachel Castro.

BAYANIHAN models and singer dancers delight the Russian visitors with their performances of a Bicolano folk song and dance.

A TAKE home the demonstration by young German vacationers on the Kuona board.

THE INCOST Philippine booth.

SEC. Durano and Vladimir Strelkalovsky, head of the Russian Federal Agency of Tourism, sign the bilateral tourism agreement between Russia and the Philippines.

THE LOSTEP Song and Dance Ensemble performing Russian folk dances.

Europe remains Philippine tourism's prime market, with European guests staying an average of 21 days, considerably longer than Asian tourists

Concern

It must be recalled that following the kidnapping of a German family in Mindoro in 2000, German arrivals nosedived significantly. But the numbers are back, according to Tan.

"They're not affected by the Philippines' [political] situation," said Leslie Baja, Philippine consul general to Berlin, several weeks after the President proclaimed a state of emergency. "They tend to compartmentalize. Among long-stay kidnapping."

Still, security is a major concern with tourists, especially the Europeans. "When something happens, we work double time to reassure them," said Hadja Trinchera of Rajah Tours.

"We get bombarded with e-mails," added Jesus Travel's Bhabe Aurora Tadeo with a grimace. "Mukha ba mailam dalaman dang ka-ra?" which explains why, for three years, Russia didn't participate in the ITB.

Oil-rich

Indeed. Several days later, the private sector also jumped to Moscow with the DOT team, to intensify the campaign for the country's fastest-emerging market, the Russians.

If there's anybody who has most benefited from the rising cost of oil, it is the Russians. Forbes Magazine recently reported that oil-rich Russia now has the third most number of billionaires. And they are quite the enthusiastic spenders and travelers.

One of Europe's fastest growing outbound travelers, the Russians are among the world's top spenders and luxury shoppers, justifiably making them a very desirable market.

Given Russia's unforgiving climate for as much half of the year, Moscovites are inclined to travel to the warm tropics. However, the Philippines is still considered a rather exotic nation for most Russians, said Vladimir Strelkalovsky, head of the Russian Federal Agency of Tourism, such that most Muscovites would spend their holidays in warm countries like Thailand and Malaysia.

Even then, Russian arrivals to the Philippines reached the greatest increases by the end of 2005, at 151 percent, compared to the previous year, a very encouraging development that paved for the signing of a bilateral tourism agreement that also extended talk

More stories F4

THE PHILIPPINE delegation to the Moscow tourism trading takeover, in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square.

TOURISM Sec. Joseph "Joey" Durano meets with the German press at the ITB.

THE BAHAY Pilipino in Potsdam, Germany, which Manfred Schroll put up with his Filipino wife, Gisela. Pinoneer Schroll

Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA hits Cagayan de Oro

On the latest stop of Talk 'N Text's 6th year anniversary celebration, the Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro City served as venue for the "AnniverSAYA" party! As the third leg of this party series, Cagayan de Oro proved to be a more than able host for the numerous activities planned for the entire day.

TALK 'N TEXT ANNIVER SAYA! 6TH YEAR

Talk 'N Text's event by the Wide range

AnniverSAYA sa Umaga

Last April 22, 2006, the opening festivities were attended by celebrities Wowie Navarro, Rassday Vargas and Dominic Ochoa, Governor Oscar Moreno, Mr. Alfonso Limketkai and Councilor Eduardo Apacible were also on hand at the entrance arch to the main stage as the early birds to the party were treated to three AnniverSAYA Lanes filled with games and treats. AMA Land saw people playing with Big Dice, Stick Fights, Giant Basketball and Giant Tambang Lata! Visiting VEX Land could get you a new haircut, face paint, henna tattoos, as well as some yummy food treats. Sumo Wrestling, Tic Tac Toe, Giant Pick Up Sticks, and Insect O' Loops were waiting for the adventurous people who dropped by SAYA Land.

Kisses and autographs from fans in CDO

Some members get ready to perform

AnniverSAYA sa Tanghali

From 12:30pm until 7:00 in the evening, popular comedians Antonio Nocales joined Tuesday Vhong and Dominic in meeting and greeting their fans at the "Teatro ng Tawa". More exciting games and prizes were played as the people of CDO joined their idols onstage. Later, outrageous comedienne Ruffa Mae Quinto and beautiful Heart Evangelista made their way to join in the Talk 'N Text party!

AnniverSAYA sa Gabi

Ruffa Mae had the fans rolling in the aisles with her trademark comedy and via a dance number, while Heart and Jericho thrilled the locals courtesy of a romantic duet. Some of the funniest comedians who regularly perform at the LaffFirst comedy clubs also trekked to Cagayan de Oro to add to the raucous fun. Not content with merely bringing celebrities to the city, Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA also raffled off some amazing prizes! Roncho Sandiego won a scooter, Roberto Bermudo won a Nokonics phone set, while Roy Virtudazo won a Pioneer VCD player and Jonatan Illos won a Pioneer DVD player. A Philips TV was won by Rowena Bradera, and if that wasn't enough, Evelyn Subong owned a grocery showcase and Rowelyn Estoreo won a kitchen showcase!

The party doesn't end in Cagayan de Oro! Bicolanos better watch out as Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA will visit Naga City on May 6, 2006 for the next leg of this 6th anniversary extravaganza!

From Russia and Germany, with love

THE LOVEV Song and Dance Ensemble is a professional company known for its Bolshoi Theatre.

SOME 1,000 spectators at the ITB also offered packages to entire markets, like gay and lesbian travelers.

To escape FL

the 30th year celebration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Statistics show that Russian tourists prefer to travel to countries where a visa upon arrival scheme is implemented, and this was one of the arrangements Duterte promised his counterpart in the signing.

Luxury accommodations

As Muscovites and other Europeans have a preference for luxury accommodations, the Philippines is facing yet another challenge with the shortage of infrastructure.

"[The number of] tourists is no longer a problem," says Tan. "Capacity is the problem. But it's double if we act together. We need to strike a balance between our short-haul (Asian) and long-haul (European) markets."

Cebu and Boracay [are in-demand, best-selling sexy long-haul] destinations as some dates are blocked off for Asian travelers, making it hard for Europeans to attend their trips. To add to that, the country has 13 million dreams to tackle.

There is, of course, the prospect of investments other Infrastructural. And the DOT is pinning its hopes on that.

This year, the department was the first to get its budget approved, and with an increase of P200 million. Perhaps to show where the money is going, the DOT brought three members of the Russian Committee on Tourism to fly in and Moscow.

The legislative and the executive departments can work together, opined Federico Hey, Amnesty Assistant, by allocating a more substantial budget for tourism development. He suggested a one-door-central focus for government agencies for, say, five years, to develop infrastructure and other areas for tourism promotion, giving full command to the DOT and essentially making the tourism secretary the most powerful man in the Cabinet. He assumed, however, that given the country's bureaucratic setup, that may only be a dream [there].

Makati Rep. Florencio Mirallores said the DOT's "marketing strategy should be to sell small islands to us," perhaps a more pragmatic task given how foreigners usually venture any town of interest in a specific place to the rest of the country.

His colleague, Manila Rep. Miles Rocco, however, went further by suggesting a bill to rename the country to "Philippine Islands [of]." The present name "sounds too polite, [it] be removed, and may [not] a more "assertive, exotic and descriptive" alternative.

A fascinating idea to focus, perhaps, but one that's bound to generate not a few outraged tones of "p.c."

E-mail the author at lawrence@inquirer.com.ph

HOME quests from the Lithuanian Song and Dance Ensemble, which performed at the Philippine Heritage Center to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between RP and Russia.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

AS REWARD for deserving Mary Kay ladies, they get diamond-bedecked pins...

Painting the town pink

By Allison M. Lopez

China's Hangzhou went from red to Mary Kay's signature color at the opening of the beauty company's newest factory

NOT EVEN THE FOGGIEST of days could dampen their spirit. They were cheering and singing under a steady drizzle, and in high heels at that.

... ON A TRIP TO CHINA! Here, the top sales directors at Hangzhou's Xianxia West Lake

FLASHED one of the most influential businesswomen in history, Mary Kay received numerous awards and recognitions, as seen in this display area inside the facility

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART factory in Hangzhou was built to accommodate the booming China market

Painting the town pink

From page G1

It wasn't a religious gathering, but a gathering of the religious, nevertheless. Wearing pink velour suits over their expensive suits, some 700 fully made-up women of Mary Kay (ME) from seven countries assembled on a cold day in March in Hangzhou, China, to witness the birth of a new symbol of the company's rapid expansion in Asia—a 200,000-sq.ft. world-class facility that churns out all the beauty bombs they've come to love.

"I've got that Mary Kay enthusiasm deep in my heart, deep in my heart," sang the women as they awaited the coming of their top-level male executives. One of them was the founder's grandson, 23-year-old Ryan Rogers, who everybody whispered was good-looking.

He did not disappoint. Everyone wanted to have pictures with him. Also in the entourage were David Holl, ME Inc. president and CEO, and Oon Choi, ME Asia-Pacific president.

Instead of a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the five good men of Mary Kay delighted the crowd by changing into ankle-length uniforms to drive the wheel of the makeup-dispensing car. The company's new engine, so to speak, finds another in the new factory that's said to be more state-of-the-art than the one in Texas and will produce the bulk for China, ME's biggest international market.

As one watched the factory workers, but Oon delivered the raindrops were blessings from heaven. Indeed it was, for through the day was gray and tender, the grounds were also mildly pink, ME's signature color, and reassured by the studies of those extraordinary women.

Top sales directors

The women, sales directors in their own countries, namely China, Taiwan, ME, Korea, Malaysia, Australia/New Zealand and the Philippines, had won a company contest and were rewarded with a trip to China. It's what other sales companies call a spree, but Mary Kay calls it a "celebration."

More than, after all, is a company that advocates "a balanced life by placing faith first, family second and career third." It's a corporation that has presence in more than 30 markets, yet is actually one of the largest privately held companies in the US.

These principles stem from the founder herself, Mary Kay Ash, a woman of strikingly strong-willed character. She began making a difference at home, saying he's actually ill before while getting good grades in school. Her mother was her major inspiration, and whose words of wisdom guide the company till now: "You can do it."

Throughout her life, "the extraordinary thing," said their newly CEO Richard Rogers, son and co-founder, "was the way Mary Kay enabled people to believe in themselves."

If you count the Mary Kay sales force in that, there really are 1.5 million independent beauty consultants worldwide.

Mary Kay Inc. is one of the largest direct sellers of skincare and color cosmetics in the world. It has managed double-digit annual growth since the company's founding in 1963.

From an initial nine-item collection, the ME product line has expanded to more than 200 premium products in six categories: facial skincare, color cosmetics, nail care, body care, sun protection and fragrance.

The latest is the PurePrivate system, a skin-brightening line that was a hit all over this and especially in the Philippines, where retail sales reached $7 million when it was launched in March. It must be because lemon and basil are actually more into skincare than Cosmetone, which is no makeup line.

"We're running out of stocks. Everywhere is doing so good it exceeded our expectations," said Beth Hancock, ME Philippines GM. So far, for example, sales ME Philippines posted is 75 percent growth last year.

Starting anew

The Philippine sales force now has 35,000 active members. It keeps growing, too, judging by the number of people who dream every night of becoming rich as what the company calls its pink-power suits, like the two heads, a prerequisite for the Mary Kay corset garb is shown.

PURE-WHITE, Mary Kay's latest skin-brightening line, has taken Asia by storm since it was launched last month

A TEN GOOD MEN. Dustin Hancock, Mary Kay Phils. GM; Mr. Choi, ME Asia Pacific president; Mary Kay's grandson Ryan Rogers, board director; and David Holl, ME Inc. president and CEO

EXECUTIVE senior sales director Christina Boyd, PR Philippines' candidate for its first national sales director, leads breakout group discussions during the workshop

AT MARY Kay, the ultimate goal is to be national sales director. Pastor sales managers's dare ladies who can earn above P500,000 a month

STEAMING upon at the Six Harmonies Pagoda

MARY Kay Ash was included in the book "Forbes' Greatest Business Stories of All Time," one of 25 and the only woman business leader profiled. Her philosophy? "Don't think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right."

EVEN the rainmaker were in pink. Crowded sales directors at the factory opening, with all smiles

Those interested can register and avail of the starter kit that contains a survey mix of ME products at only P1,995.

The kind of selling P500 comes with every business card given by an ME beauty consultant, because the company wants the products to speak for themselves.

Ken Fernandez, a senior sales director, said many women who had the ME kind liked that it brightened up their faces, and ended up buying products worth P5,000.

She should know, because that was what happened to her. Fernandez looks from Mega City to Bicol and has made it for Mary Kay ministries.

"I went to school a battered wife and a wife of a gambler," said Ashley Diaz, a sales director from Cagayan de Oro. Joining Mary Kay has changed these women's lives, she said, because it gave them a chance to start anew and have a career that empowers them. "Now they are one of my most hardworking consultants," she said.

Research on upkeep for discerning ladies and those come to the pertinent home helps elevate you, diamond jewelry the famous pink cars, and trips abroad such as the one. "The glitz gets those women usually don't buy for themselves," Mercado said.

Rewarding trip

And on this trip, they enjoyed the fruits of their labor after two days of "classes" at seminar workshops. The Philippine group enjoyed their last day touring Hangzhou. They went to serene West Lake, Hangzhou's famous tourist spot, the nearby Six Harmonies Pagoda and the Lingyin Buddhist Temple. In the evening, they saw a song-and-dance performance, "The Romance of the Song Dynasty," which even many some of them cry because it was so beautiful," Mercado in the group's own Chinese dialect.

The year holds another first for Mary Kay Philippines, as it eagerly awaits the announcement of its first-ever national sales director. ME's sales force is now second only to Korea's, which has been in existence since 1995. ME Inc. was established here in May 2000. The ME countries is a most coveted career, but getting there entails a climb more difficult than the scaling the Great Wall at 4°C.

It's a means but to have eight directors underyou, and more below them. But then again, you can earn about half a million a month in return.

"The rose border are the Mary Kay. They are the Mary Kay sister she's gone," said Holl.

Before putting up her own company, Mary Kay herself broke sales records and became MD in without selling company. She retired after 25 years to corporate sales and having been bypassed for promotion in favor of the men. That's when she began building a company that would provide women like her more opportunities.

"We don't sell just cosmetics, we sell sense of life," said Chua of the Mary Kay culture. "We are very excited about the Philippines because the sales force has that go-give-spirit."

This go-give spirit means giving without expecting something in return, another principle the late Mary Kay advocated. A Hiker Co. Clowns, voted by the consultants themselves each year, and Hancock said this award is considered a prestigious gift because "It's not something you can buy with sales."

At Mary Kay's biggest banquet in store so far, with the sales directors dressed in their finest, grandson Ryan said, "Mary Kay would have taken pictures with all of them [700 plus delegates] if she were here."

And what a picture it would be—all these beautiful ladies, sparkling with the diamond pins they proudly wear as badges of honor, brightening up even the foggiest of days.

Mary Kay Philippines' head office is at Bldg. 2 Jo Fortis Compound, 2241 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8986211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

E-mail the author at jmanalo@inquirer.com.ph

Bike maker to the world

CHONGQING IS THE BIGGEST city in South West China, the fourth largest city after Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. It has a population of about 31 million.

Known as the Fog City, it is covered with a thick layer of fog for an average of 68 days a year, usually in spring or autumn.

Chongqing is widely acknowledged as the largest industrial and economic center in China. It accounts for half of the world's motorbike production.

But it is also known for its cultural heritage and tourist attractions. It has parks, many gardens and scenic spots, offering recreational, entertainment and cultural activities for everyone.

One of the popular tourist places is Bling Park at Changjiang Lu, Yuzhong district. Originally called Biling Pavilion (Green Slope Hill) for its narrow and steep shape, the park was built in 1909.

It was originally the home of Lee, a rich businessman. Also known as Courtesan Park, it now houses a special plants and a new tower, Liangjiang Pavilion, offering a view of the entire city.

The Bling Park is a favorite place for recreation and relaxation in the city, luring one get close to nature. It is also ideal for outdoor exercises like tai chi.

Chongqing is famous for its hot Szechuan cuisine and hotpot dishes. Street vendors, as well as restaurants, offer exciting spicy delicacies for people with adventurous palates.

ETMET food is deeply ingrained in Chinese culture

ELING Park is ideal for outdoor exercises like tai chi.

CHONGQING is making a name for itself as a place for great shopping

Connecting a billion people

From page D4

includes e-mail support as well as mobile Internet access via a Window Applications Protocol (WAP) browser. With MMS users can send and receive e-mail, surf some websites and access news.

The model has a rubberized finish for better grip and comfort plus a color display with metroid finish.

The Nokia 1112 is designed specifically for first-time users, known as the "made for India phone," it has simplified display menus and a graphic phonebook for simple navigation. It has a speaking clock with alarm that announces the time in local languages. It is also enhanced with MP3-grade ring tones.

According to Ramos Gruenth, director for new growth markets, the Nokia 1100 series, to which this model belongs, has been a hit in India and elsewhere, selling 100 million units globally since its launch, chiefly because of its simple and uncomplicated features.

New solutions

To better serve the needs of low-income consumers, Nokia has started licensing its Prepaid Tracker technology. This feature, present in new-entry phones, automatically updates the user phone on its remaining prepaid balance and call expenses.

Subscribers can also view information on the account's expiration date, cost of the last call or SMS, and amount of last prepaid recharge.

A survey conducted by International Telecoms & Media in February showed about 70 percent of mobile subscribers in non-postpaid markets were prepaid users.

"These consumers are often cost-control," said Gruenth. "They are budget consciousness. This is why we're introducing the Prepaid Tracker to help them people monitor and control their call expenses."

A new feature, the Nokia Connect Market Expansion Toolkit, will encourage low-spending consumers to make their calls outside of peak hours for more affordable pricing.

"We believe that the right combination of mobile designs, network solutions, wide coverage and services plus a favorable regulatory environment are essential in providing the benefits of mobility to consumers," said Gruenth.

E-mail the author at bbunda@inquirer.com.ph

More Asians set to travel this year

OUTBOUND TRAVEL WILL CONTINUE TO boom in Asia in spite of rising interest rates, higher oil prices and persisting economic uncertainties.

This finding is among the results of MasterCard International's Masterindex of Travel report. The report forecasts the continued growth of outbound travelers from markets across the Asia-Pacific in the first half of 2006, with the Philippines having the highest predicted year-on-year growth at 12.8 percent.

The Masterindex of Travel encompasses a nine-month barometer of outbound travel for 12 markets covering Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

Besides the forecast of outbound travel, a survey of business and personal travel trends among the urban middle class, with 700 units included since 2004, was also conducted. The survey was conducted between Oct. 13 and Nov. 9, 2005, with a total of 5,484 consumers participating.

Besides the Philippines, the Masterindex of Travel also predicts strong growth from Malaysia (11.2 percent). Significant growth is also expected from Australia (9.3 percent), China (9.6 percent), Japan (8.6 percent) and Korea (7.8 percent).

"Our latest outbound travel forecasts are consistent with our analysis of the long-term outlook of outbound travel. It has been firmly entrenched in Asia-Pacific as part of the urban middle class lifestyle," observed Dr. Yawa Hedrick-Wong, economic advisor to MasterCard International in Asia-Pacific.

Dr. Hedrick-Wong further pointed out that "personal travel has run only taken off in Asia, for the market is undergoing a dynamic process of segmentation. Observed trends in personal travel suggest that Asian travelers are considering two distinct market segments, each underpinned with different lifestyles and unique preferences, and businesses will be successful only if they can meet the challenge of market segmentation."

The survey report shows that intra-regional travel remains popular with both personal and business travelers. Personal travelers named destinations in Asia-Pacific 189 percent) as their top choice for travel, above destinations in Europe (34 percent) and North America (26 percent).

Similarly for business travelers, destinations in the Asia-Pacific (86 percent) emerged as being the most frequented, compared to destinations in Europe (12 percent) and North America (11 percent).

Mirroring findings from the previous report, Japan and Australia continue to remain attractive destinations for personal travelers. Japan (28 percent vs 23 percent six months ago), however, edges slightly ahead of Australia (24 percent vs 27 percent six months ago) to become the most popular destination for personal travel for the six months ahead.

In terms of business travel, China (27 percent) and Singapore (26 percent) remain firmly entrenched as the most frequently visited destinations in Asia-Pacific.

The results also reinforce the growth of women in the personal travel spur, 40 percent of females polled as compared to 34 percent of all male respondents have taken a personal trip in the past year.

Summer fun continues

SHANGRILA PLAZA CORP has lined up activities for kids and the whole family with its "Summer @ The Shang" until May.

Activities include workshops by Shang's retail partners, fashion shows and cultural performances like ventriloquism, book festival and dance revival.

Among those to be featured are the Emilio Liddiam Full Symphonic Band, May 6; San Miguel Master Chorale with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, May 13-14; and the Woodwind Quintet, May 27.

Children's fashion shows featuring the young models of Gingersnaps and Trumpets will be held May 7 and 28, respectively.

Call 6345888 ext 70.

Meanwhile Paragon Alabang, presents "Relax" on May 5, at Piscopio Asia-Europe in Filipinas Corporate City, as part of its month-long "Moves in May" event, presented in cooperation with Southside Cuisine.

A car show will feature young motorists and Jeep Boy featured bi-low-ride collection and the Southside Cuisine family's car collection.

An after-party event will feature Nathan L. Jacobs, Mike Hawaiian Pirate 2004, Rockstar, Nimbus 9, P-Pop and break dancers. DJs Phat Bone and Kinnaway will host.

In the Poker Challenge, prizes will include Wii console, cars, discount coupons and gift certificates from Gamesmen, and gift packs from sponsors.

Visit www.paragonalabang.com or call 8583114.

Connecting a billion people

LIGHT and durable, Nokia 2310

By Bella V. Bautista

IT SEEMED AN UNLIKELY place for a birds-eyes. Though many of the over 400 guests from around the world might not have heard of Chongqing before, there was no doubt the city had heard of the event host, Nokia.

The world's leading phone maker elected to launch its new entry phones in Chongqing, apparently as part of its effort to further strengthen its position in the country that has become its largest market globally.

The launch was attended by key execs, even from Nokia, network operators and resellers, as well as media representatives from different countries.

The cocktail party celebrating the theme of mobility and creative freedom was held under a gigantic tent, the luxurious setup giving guests that chi-chi Ocean 3rd carpet feel, complete with spotlights and paparazzi.

NOKIA executives Rueven Gravenitz, Alice Lambrecht and Bernando Torres

Nokia's choice of a launch pad for its new phones reflects its goal to capture the huge China market

The Finnish company did own a lot of potential in China though. Nokia "has become the clear leader for mobile handset," said Frances Pinkerton, SVP for Intel's Business Unit.

In 2005 survey conducted by Nokia showed sales volume for mobile phones in China increasing by 72 percent, with 32.5 billion units sold, solidifying China's position as the brand's largest market globally.

Nokia is projecting a 20-percent growth in its global subscribership number in 2006, reaching three billion from last year's 2.2 billion.

"Asia Pacific and China will [account for] 50 percent of the estimated growth," said Alice Lambrecht, VP for Apac Mobile Phones, sales, consumer experience.

The market growth is probably due to the fact that Nokia has managed to remain at the forefront of innovative design and quality products, making it one of "the most trusted mobile phone brands worldwide.

Evolving

Nokia products continue to evolve, its designs attuned at satisfying the ever-changing needs of consumers, providing almost everyone with the ideal phone for his or her lifestyle.

Thus, Nokia's design team is always faced with a challenge. Each generation of Nokia products has to have a higher level of aesthetics, comfort and performance to keep consumer satisfaction at the highest level.

Nokia phones are designed for ease of use and learning. These qualities are evident in the three entry phones launched in Chongqing, made especially for first-time and low-income consumers.

"The new growth market includes those who never had mobile phones before. [And] yet first-time users," said Lambrecht. "Primary is people in rural parts of China and India."

To get these people connected, the new Nokia entry phones have also been made more affordable.

The company's market research shows a big percentage of the population in the new growth markets earns US$88-100 a month. These people are willing to use only [up to] 10 percent of their monthly salaries to get a mobile phone.

Jeremias Gomez, director for business development and industry marketing, said that "for low-income consumers, our [main] objective is to reduce the total cost of mobile phone ownership to US$5 per month, while ensuring a profitable and sustainable business model for operators and retailers."

Entry phones

The Nokia design team had to create something exciting to cater to the needs of these new growth markets. They came up with the three new models embedded for software excellence.

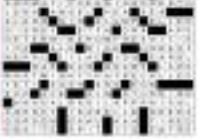
The Nokia 2610 is for music lovers, particularly young and stylish individuals. It has an FM radio device or key and radio save hands-free speaker, polyphonic ringtones and 64MB graphic icons.

The phone is enhanced with an SMS editor to avoid accidental deletions of messages as well as a speed dial for SMS sending.

The Nokia 2610 has a voice-recording function. It is equipped with MP3 ring tones and has an integrated hands-free speaker. It

CONNECTING G2

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Sunday LIFESTYLE

Once 'lost sheep' is now a 'shepherd'

Text and photos
by Linda B. Subido

THEY ARE PARENTS AND children, executives and laborers, professionals and students. Drug users no longer lead themselves easily to profiling. They span age groups, social and economic status.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported last year that at least two million Filipino workers are hooked on illegal drugs and the number was rapidly rising. Some 30 percent of the estimated 6.7 million drug users decimated the country were young and urbanized, according to Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson.

So widespread is the problem of drug use and abuse that there is no telling who suffers from it.

Before he entered the seminary, Fr. Flavi was among those people who thought nothing was too much to beat. The altar boy turned to drugs to escape. But, like others before him, he realized when he got hooked that his "solution" only compounded his problems.

Now a full-fledged priest, Fr. Flavi is helping others like him heal themselves. He is the spiritual director of The Rising Phoenix Foundation Inc., a therapeutic center for the treatment and rehabilitation of substance dependency and other related disorders, in Tagaytay City.

Prepared

Fr. Flavi thinks his descent into the sordid world of drug abuse helped prepare him for his current role as spiritual adviser of substance users, as well as his other priestly duties.

He is much more able to relate to laymen, better able to understand the struggle they have to wage to survive and cope with life's difficulties. After all, if a man, whom faith is strong enough to lead to priesthood, can succumb to the false promise of bliss offered by drugs, how much chance is there for troubled souls with weak spiritual grounding?

The new priest is one of several ordained minister abusers involved in the center's rehabilitation work. So is Fred, three of the founders of the center, and several staff members. But the oft-repeated saying "here there, done that," is not just a misnomer. They have really been there and done that—drug use and abuse—so they know whereof they speak.

They are abreast of different rehab routines, some have even gone facility-shopping, so to speak, unable to find exactly the kind of help they need.

Empathy

Recovering dependents José María Díaz, Bernard I. Tormolo and Dhirwer T. Belmonte, who founded Phoenix together with Eduardo F. Rocha and Fernando M. David, do not promise a miracle cure but they can guarantee professional care from experts and trained personnel, understanding, compassion and, **love of all perhaps, sympathy for those who seek the center's help.**

The foundation runs a rehabilitation center, Phoenix Ridge, at 6255 JP Rizal Ave., Meadow Crossing Site, Tagaytay City.

One important aspect of the center's rehabilitation program is getting the patient's, the whole family and even the community involved. After all, drug users will not return to a vacuum after rehabilitation. They have to reconnect with family, friends, society. A less than welcoming home and less supportive community can undo whatever progress they may have made.

For one young Phoenix resident, at least, has improving communication lines with his family is already significant. "I stopped talking to my father a long time ago," the boy said, But with Phoenix making the family a very important participant in the rehabilitation process, the boy said he finally talked to his father again, openly and candidly holding very little back. A huge weight was lifted off his shoulders and now he knows there is a loving home to return to when he completes the Phoenix program.

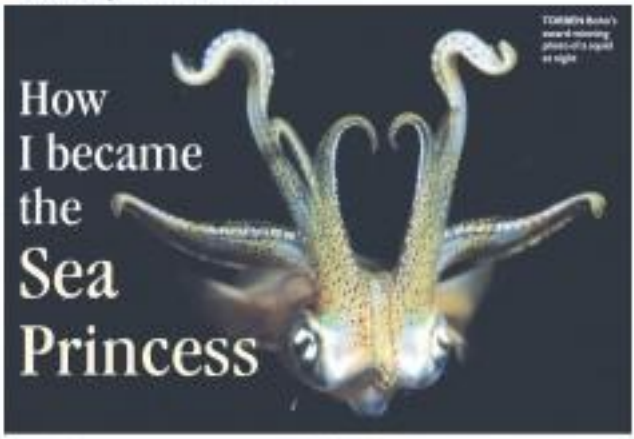
Like the mythological bird that knew itself completely then rose again from its ashes, teenager and mom Imanilad, Phoenix Foundation wishes the same for drug users under its care.

The Rising Phoenix Foundation Inc. is at 2/F 209 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City. Call 8264116 and 8228609. E-mail rphoenix7@yahoo.com

PHOENIX Ridge, the rehabilitation center in Tagaytay City, is more a home than an institution for its wards.

PHOENIX residents get professional care from experts and trained personnel.

SUNSET at idyllic Dive Solana


TOMMIN Bolo's award-winning photo of a squid at night

How I became the Sea Princess

Tessa!

Rima Prieto-Valdez

MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH the underwater world started more than 15 years ago. As a single mom then, I spent weekends either scuba diving with friends or searching for bigger fish in the "happening" scene of Mabini. In that era, Greenbelt and the Fort were still grasslands, and the hippest gadget was the pager!

With my Assumption high school bar friend Ilona Alcántara, we took scuba diving lessons with instructor Gigi Santos (contact 0917-8222663), who is also the instructor of Pro-Scuba SAR and who will finally open her own dive shop...the Pacific Dive Center in Alabang. I eventually got hooked on scuba, from the pool sessions to our final checkout dive to Anilao, Batangas.

Of my original group, I was the one who became totally passionate about diving. I married diving like a typical Japanese diver with neon colors and matching gear. I bought tanks with colors colored mask and tank bungees in the most luminous shades.

Diving in style was my motto and I would glow in the waters if I could. I figured that to be one with the amazingly colorful myriad of marine life, shocking colored wetsuits were in order.

There's just no stopping progress in other ways! From tech advances in scuba gear to the quality of the winds going to Anilao, diving has only gotten better. In 11 years of diving, I am only now my scuba instructor Sanbuted Dumaya (he actually taught Gigi to dive!) but I have become the weighting boy Primitivo.

Thus, there was no way I could say no when instructor Joel Shelton asked me to attend the RMD about 101 photo contest. The full name of the event is a mouthful—the Mabini Trophy Digital Underwater Hunt—and its mission is to make people mad enough about underwater conservation, developing measures to protect the sea and providing interesting and livelihood to the local area residents.

ANGEL suiters Irina and Raul Bañares

MIA Zobel Jr. uses Philippine-made handicrafts throughout the resort.

Underwater tourism is the big winner of the contest, of course! An international cast of participants entered the photo contest. The "Best in Show Category" which won a trip to Tubbataha on board the Tri-Star, was won by Germany Tadhana Balita with his dramatic photo of a squid.

To give a fair chance to all levels of photographers, Joel got renowned underwater photographers like Ginny Tuason, Marissa Flaviano, Deedo Co-unjieng and Freffie Lee to be the judges. Ginny and Deo's photography book called "Seduce" (available in all major bookstores) has won the Photography Book prize at the Ifhl National Book Awards and the Grand Prize for Books at the World Festival of Underwater Images in Antibes, France.

The contest rules/issues had last month at Bigfin Point Resort. Expert diver and conservationist Joel's premiere goal was to raise funds to train and develop world-class local dive masters, dive guides and tourism workers.

Much to offer

Just recently, refreshingly beautiful Dive Solana (contact 0912-3400302) hosted several underwater photographers from Malaysia, Singapore to document multispecific Anilao but ordered to much in offer and with in close proximity to Manila, donning your gear and jumping into the water is just too easy.

Sponsored by STI of Tuason and Pascagian City, Globe Wireless and supported by various resorts in Mabini, the contest had a successful beginning. This year, on May 10 and 11, the first batch of the contest will be ready—a seminar in underwater judging, titled "Livelihood from Guiding Underwater Photographers." Nancy Yap has accordingly offered his time and expertise for this endeavor.

Dive Solana was found by former Ayala

PRINCE of Philippine Fashion Inno Sotto surrounded by his stunning models

DYNAMIC Bajo Laurel poses with his muses after his show.

DIVE Solana features sunny villas by the beach.

LEARN French at Alliance Française's "Fun French Summer" until May 19.

MAD About US judges Dodo Corunjieng, Marissa Flaviano and Ginny Tuason.

AVID divers Boris and Ting Feliciano

ANGLO homeowners Marlyn and Tony Lilos

SPECIFIMO Color designer Ronald Villalon and Runway Productions' Joey Espinosa Jr.

COSMOPOLITE Veronica Arche Rodriguez and Bea Valdes

AYALA Museum guest Philip Cu-unjieng, museum head Mina Belen, AFM director Ethnic Ibolingo and Prez Sabaguero, curator of the Christian Lacroix "Glasgow!"

GIANNA Montinola, Lizzie Zobel, Sandra Madre and Jaime-Augusto Zobel de Ayala

PEARL lovers Margarita Delgado, Lizzie Zobel and Mia Borromeo

MALU Santos, Nina Garcia and Mandy Santos

DIVE Solana owners Bea Zobel Jr. and Joel Shelton

FUN are Isa Sotto and Paul Elizalde

E-mail me at sospitmoss@kingcolor.com.ph.

An evening of romantic piano with Ingrid Santamaria

THE CEBU-BASED PHILIPPINE Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) opened its 2006 concert season with a Fall Season at the Atlantic ballroom of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

It was dubbed "Romanticism and the Pianist" as it featured three composers of the era: Richard Wagner, Frederick Chopin and Edward MacDowell. The music was the 3rd Ultrasonic composer to be considered as legendary of the European romantic composers.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Pacenciá

On this occasion, the PPP was conductor by maestro Eugene Galvillo, of Filipino descent but born and raised in California. He is now the music director and principal conductor of the Phil. Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) in Manila. A round of applause greeted him as he mounted the podium for the first number, Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll." Wagner wrote it as a surprise/birthday gift for his wife, Cosima Liszt.

Ms. Ingrid Stella Santamaria, PPP's artistic director, was featured in the concert's next two highlights as piano soloist. First was Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E Minor. Ingrid had especially commissioned the arrangement to professor Jeffrey Solitario, the PPP's director for studies, and current resident conductor of the PPO in Manila.

The accompaniment was performed by the PPP's string quartet, of which Jeffrey is a member. The rest are violist Antonio Sanchez of the PPP, the violinists Brian Glendinning and Sara Gonzales, and cellist Kerry Gonzales. They are all based in Manila now for their studies and frequently perform assigned sessions and events.

MacDowell's Piano Concerto No. 2 in D Minor was the grand finale. The PPP did full justice to this wondrous composition. Ingrid excelled herself in virtuosity and passion which, along with great dexterity, are requirements to render this concerto at its best.

There was a standing ovation when it concluded, with shouts of "bravo" and "encore" from the enthusiastic audience estimated at around 1,000. There would indeed, at the truly beautiful, regal in a violet dress, and one wonder had something to say: "He will do encores, the second movement."

The kudos were as much for maestro Galvillo, Ms. Ingrid, professor Jeffery Brion, fans and facets as they were for everyone who performed that evening. They were the following:

First violin: Princess Christine Vivian, Elli Lawrence Galindo, Joseph Dana Lascañeta, and Mylene Cipriz; second violin: Maria Antonette Guigueno (the soprano to have a nice singing voice), Reggie Ann Ramos, Abel Abenojar, Adelaida Montan and Jun-Boy Hoopes; violas: Joseph Patrick Bale and Genevieve Galindo; cellist: Shiela Rose Reyes and Ma. Bella Malagino; bass: Virgilio Vhyan Bates-Martin Alvarez and Mhale Sampaloes; oboe: Kim Richmond; bassoon: Abel Reyes and Eugene Aquino; horns: Ruth Roberts and Basilio Jedic; trumpet: Rosalyn Hermanes; trombone: Dawn Garbito; and keyboards: Joseph Mella.

Intense narrative

Though she is not a performer, violist is the Cebu Country who is with the administrative staff of the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation whose headquarters at the old Sala mansion is home to the PPP. Ingrid founded the organization in 1997 to honor her parents who had inspired her and her siblings in their dedication to art and culture, especially music.

This is an intense summer for the PPP as it holds its annual summer camp for young musicians, auditioned with performances to evaluate their progress. Part of the activities is attendance to the PPP concert season.

After the opening concert, there was another show today: "The Sound We Sing," featuring the Beach Singing Ambassadors. Held at SM City Cebu's spacious Theater One, professor Robert del Rosario conducted. Guests were soprano Lisa Gokabeng and tenor Nolan Gokabeng. Co-presented with the Grace Baptist Church to mark the 20th Annual conference of the Association of Fundamental Baptist Churches in the Philippines.

The last concert of the season was dedicated to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose 250th birthday is being celebrated throughout 2006. This time, Galvan conducted the PPP in the program was Mozart's delightful Symphony No. 40 and Mendelssohn's Octet for a very good reason. Mendelssohn's chamber is most often compared to that of Mozart.

The PPP String Quartet based in Manila has given itself a name. Quartet's Repertoire. That is around the end of the Cebu-based string quartet, now formed by Lawrence Salcedo and Princess Christine Montes, violins 1 and 2, respectively; Joseph Franz Lustaquio, viola; and Abbie Rose Reyes, cello. They gave a beautiful recital of Classics in the newly-appointed auditorium of the Manila Roman Catholic Press Center.

Of interest to Ingrid's fans here and abroad is a forthcoming book on her by ex-editor Inquirer Chit de la Rama who came to Cebu for the PPP's opening concert. He did some interviews with people who have known Ingrid through the years, and has promised to be back five or three times more.

What came to mind first and foremost about Ingrid? For the people of Cebu, she has brought the province its golden era of music. From the time she started creating a touch symphony to its flowering as a full-fledged music group.

DR. INGRID Sala Santamaria with the Manila-based PPP String Quartet, which will head Quartets Repertoire. From left: Brian Glendinning, Sara Gonzales, Ingrid, Kerry Gonzales and Jeffrey Solitario.

PDI-BLSS-SPEEDO FAMILY SUMMER SWIMMING PROMO

Winners to get free swimming lessons

THE APRIL 15 winning family—Julia, Maribeth, Maria and Jose Mari Cruz

THE BUENA FAMILY OF CALBAYOG, QUEZON City, and Cruz family of Pasay City are the winners in the PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family Summer Swimming Promo for April 15 and 23, respectively.

Both families will get free swimming lessons from BLSS and exclusive and swimming gear from Speedo.

The Buena family of AAA-304 Kindle 1g Roxas, University of the Philippines Diliman, consists of Abel, Sherry Mie and Shanen, who won the winning entry.

The Cruz's entry was sent by Maribeth G. Cruz. The family is composed of, aside from Maribeth, Mario, Julia and Jose Mari.

Winners can claim their prizes at BLSS, 2690 Taft Ave., Sta. Ana, Manila, tels. 0917-7000/ROM(7946), 5893982, 361-5551, 5620041.

THE APRIL 14 winning family—Sierra Ma., Sharon and Ariel Bolan

(FRONT ROW) Bobbi Gonzales, Susan Medina, Diane Dimayuga, and Gerry Bautista; (back row) Amalyn Lorayan, Gean Medina, Cynthia Carruntas and Boy Carruntas

Celebrating life, rhythm and good neighborliness

New
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Just right for everyday fitness!

You don't have to be an athlete to need fitness and energy. Everyday life is filled with activities that require both!

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Feel the RUSH! It's not an heavy on a sports drink.

New RUSH Fitness Water is a uniquely cool product. It's not for hardcore athletes because unlike any other specialized sports drink, *RUSH Fitness Water* is specifically made to help the average person recharge throughout the day to better meet the challenges of an active, stressful life.

It has less salt than ordinary sports drinks and contains electrolytes – such as sodium and potassium ions – to replenish those body fluids that you lose.

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Addicted to the RUSH! It's better than ordinary water.

Light flavored and non-carbonated, *RUSH Fitness Water* has a more appealing taste than plain water. With more electrolytes than purified water, it keeps the body better hydrated as it provides a more energizing refreshment.

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Get a RUSH everyday!

RUSH Fitness Water is for people who live regular lives filled with activity. It's for the student who has to run to class then to an org meeting and back again. It's for the executive who has to dash from one meeting to another. It's for the regular Joe who has to run around town, pulling his own weight to succeed in his own field.

RUSH Fitness Water is for national badminton champions, Kenneth and Kennie Asuncion on their days off the court. They know they still need to be fit as they go about their everyday chores and activities.

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RUSH to your favorite store! It's only P17!

RUSH Fitness Water is a totally new and exciting way to quench everyday thirst. It's available in your favorite convenience stores and supermarkets at the very reasonable price of P17 for a 500 cc. bottle!

It comes in a light, resealable PET bottle so it's convenient to take with you throughout your active day.

For everyday fitness, take something that's just right ... and feel the *RUSH!*

"DESPITE THE CHALLENGES THAT COME our way, this is our time," says Barangay Bel-Air's creative consultant, Susan Medina. "So let's make the most out of each moment."

It is this steadfast optimism that inspired the Bel-Air community's highly anticipated Fiesta Festival for 2006. With the theme "Pinahiran Kinis, Kinao Nasin," the festival not only celebrates the Filipinos' world-renowned sense of rhythm, it also celebrates life and community spirit at its best.

"Approximately 500 residents spanning four generations will be participating in one way or another," says barangay captain Gerardo Carruntas (Johnson). "And more are participating each year. While other communities are thinking of ways to get their members to take part, we are worrying about how to accommodate all the people. But this is a problem we are happy to solve."

Indeed, Bel-Air residents will be in full force this year. Kicking off the celebrations on May 6 are five fiesta feasts that will be going around the neighborhood to provide everyone a bowlful to eat.

All roads will then lead to Bel-Air's multipurpose center for the festival opening ceremonies, followed by the parading of bizarre hunks of rice porridge during the Lugawan sa Bel-Air.

Guests and residents alike can score interesting finds at the bazaar as well as treat themselves to a wide variety of culinary treats at the Food Fest. Tired from all that walking? Then take a trip back in time with the live ballroom styles prepared specially for the event.

After lunch, watch 40 budding models ages 12 and below showcase children's clothing from Orange Juice Artists in the making will also be entertained by the inaugural Barangay Group amid the graces of Bel-Air, and participate in an art contest.

After the anticipated Mass comes the Youth Night, where some of the country's hottest bands will be rocking with Bel-Air's young and young-at-heart.

Residents pay tribute to their beloved dogs with a canine show on May 7, followed by the evening Kasamb Singgit, the fun prize winner of which brings home P50,000!

Feeling the event on a high note will be the cultural night, the culmination of four months of conceptualization and preparation.

Written and directed by Pitoy Quintos and choreographed by Andrew Swarek, 330 residents will be dancing to various OPM tunes through the years, ranging from Bobby Gonzales' "Hahabol-habol," Rosa Villaruz's "Batchikik," to the duet-topping hits of Gary Valenciano.

"Each song will be given a modern twist," says Medina. "It's the first time that most of the participants will be onstage. But they've got it their all during rehearsals, so we're assured that it will be a show to look forward to."

"Practicing twice a week for six weeks has brought everyone closer to one another," says Lichauco. "The show provides everyone with a sense of belonging."

"Rehearsals are also a way for the children to get to know one another and establish friendships," she adds. "These are what their memories of growing up in Bel-Air would be made of."

At the end of the day, this is what the fiestas has aimed for ever since it was organized in 1993: to foster a strong bond among the residents.

"The most important outcome of this festival is what we carry out with our eyes," says Lichauco. "It is the solid community structure that we are able to build over the years."

Bel-Air will soon be immortalized via a coffee-table book entitled "The Bel-Air Heritage Book," which will be released in time for Bel-Air's 50th year in 2007. Jaime Licauco and Alya Honasan are some of the artists documenting the community's adorable history.

Fiestaya 2006, Pinahiran Nasin, Kinao Nasin is a collaborative effort of Barangay Bel-Air Cultural Committee headed by Kapitan Victor Gomez, Bel-Air Village Association, Makati Commercial Estate Association and the Women of Bel-Air. Go May 6 and 7, come and discover what Bel-Air living is all about!

BEL-AIR'S "BAGSAK" MIX

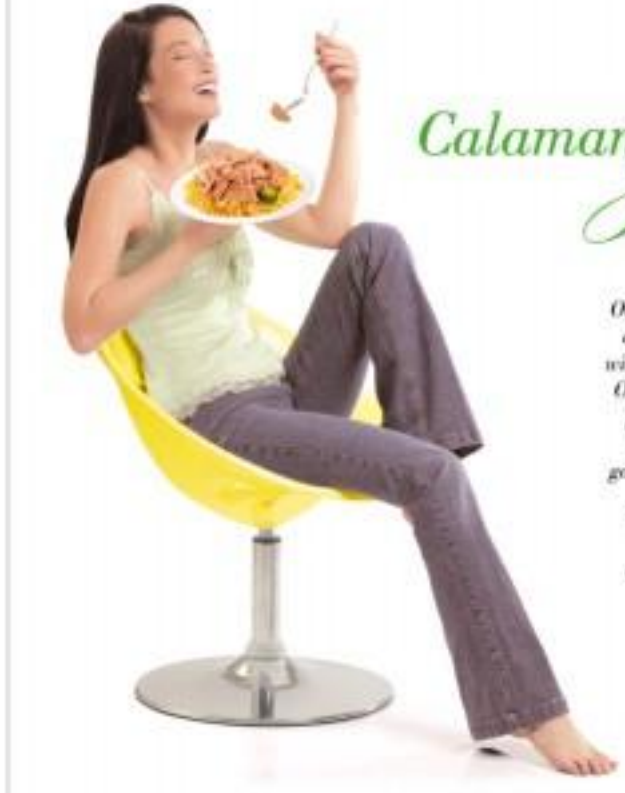
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Lito Chua Bacani-Fonacier

at HOME

Small pleasures

Utmost living in limited spaces /12
A secret wee garden of delights /14
Big things, small dwellings /17
Handy home and appliance tips /18



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Century Tuna Calamansi. Citrus-luscious... and refreshingly delicious!

the Supermeat

TIGHTNESS OF SPACE IS NO HINDRANCE TO CREATIVE DWELLING

MIRRORS become product-like elements without the use of a recessed wall and artwork.

STAINED orange cutouts in the make-up counter dining table.

IN LIEU of paintwork, the unit's interior designers cover the room in washable wallpaper.

A MIRROR instantly imparts a small area with an illusion of space.

Limited space, *utmost living*

ENTERTAINMENT center and series of shelves are done in orange finish to blend with the wall treatment.

DROP ceiling frames the living room and hides mood lighting fixtures.

Text by Alice T. Noriega
Photos by Chito Vadeo

WHEN JOSE AND JOSEFINA "Josie" Lamara bought a one-bedroom condo unit at the Rising Grand Towers (tel. 6348111 or 6348000) in Makati last year, their main concern was maximizing the 80-sq m unit that would serve as their refuge upon their return to Manila from San Francisco.

The condominium wasn't their when the couple discussed their Silver Linen home in they did away with the services of an interior designer. But in Manila, Josie made sure everything would be different from her "French-inspired" San Francisco house.

To achieve her vision of a contemporary home with "contemporary" interiors, she hired the services of interior designers Tina Gerlach-on and Rashid Lucero.

"Since my husband and I will live in the US," says Josie, "it would have been impossible for us to work on the unit and monitor its progress."

After making a list of her requirements, Josie left everything to Gerlach and Lucero, who happen to be twin sisters. They kept the Lamaras updated every step of the way via e-mail and long-distance calls. It took the duo a little over a month to finish the project.

"Mrs. Lamara's major requirements were a nice, homey and fun-five unit," said Gerlach-on. "Other than that, she left everything to us. When she saw the finished product, she didn't want anything changed."

On top of putting the finishing touches on an overall shell of a unit, the sisters also designed the furniture pieces and had them made by the furniture factory that has been owned by their family even before they became designers.

In fact, almost every furniture piece in the house was made to measure. And can be described as very eye-catching. The compact pieces were designed and fashioned with a condo unit's limited space in mind.

One of their main concerns, of course, was how to maximize space. Apart from placing mirrors in strategic areas of the house such as the dining area and four bedroom, they knew all the color paints to earth tones for a warm yet streamlined look.

Mahogany and wenge-stained furniture pieces echo the color of cabinets, shelves, showcase and a wall-mounted entertainment center. To put more flavor to the contemporary setting, the sisters incorporated bamboo accents in a number of places. A series of mirrors that framed the bedroom window mimics the painted curtains below.

Powder room

Since decades of living in California have taught the couple to do without a maid (at least for now), they had the unit's spacious bathroom in the kitchen converted into a powder room.

For this purpose, the sisters knocked down a portion of the living room wall to make way for a space-saving sliding door, which, in turn, leads to the new powder room. The sisters designed a wenge-finished dresser to go with the area, but decided to retain the mini-bathroom that came with it.

They also installed the unit's wooden floors, but refurbished walls with textured and washable wallpaper. Worth an enhancement, Gerlach-on admitted, was a tile pattern that is dramatically helped make the place look interesting and less predictable.

"I could have simply used neon interior to make the unit appear more spacious than it really is," Gerlach-on added. "But that would have made the place, especially the bedroom, look predictable."

For example, the sisters kept a pair of mirrored panels continued to both sides of the bedroom wall. Not only is the metallic surface of the wall recessed and covered with wallpaper, it also comes with a series of lights hidden between the headboard to illuminate an impressionist oil painting by an unknown artist.

In fact, almost all the spaces looking art pieces were done by virtual unknowns. One telltale sign that the unit has yet to be lived in is the absence of accent pieces on a number of shelves and showcases.

Lights also play an important role in the overall scheme of things. Both living room and bedroom have dropped ceilings equipped with sound lighting systems.

Despite their attempts to break established design norms, the sisters didn't stray far from the tried look. A number of European and accent pieces found in the bedroom, for example, come in paler octaves, side tables with pedestal bases, and lamp shades.

Indeed, the look was what their clients ordered: modern, streamlined and low-maintenance. This aside, Josie said her husband is already looking forward to a peaceful and worry-free retirement in Manila years from now.

E-mail the author at corrupt@inquirer.com.ph

BAMBOO accents on chairs infuses the unit's contemporary look with a tropical flavor.

DRAGONFLY, sculpture adorns the top side corner of the house.

WELL-PLACED art frames provide pleasant visual stimulation, soften bare walls and transform the room into a vision of a stylish home.

UTILIZING natural light as well as lighter paint is a simple yet effective technique to provide character and space to the limited area of the condo home.

Opening up a cramped condo unit

CONDOMINIUM LIVING HAS gained popularity over the years. But the limited floor area poses a tough challenge for owners who want to turn their own units into homes that display their personal touch.

In some condominium, columns and beams make the possibilities even more limited. But the now-A Ventus Residential unit No. 10 Emilio Jacinto, 7572615/16 or visit www.ayala.com.ph/, offers more options for decorating with its beam-less and column-less design.

A Venue gives the following tips for decorating limited spaces:

▸**Proudly enlarge the room with light paint.** Employ visual tricks to make small spaces seem larger. Lighter paint increases the light values of a room making it appear bigger. Celadon or ethereal color hues, among others are recommended.

▸**Choose décor for home.** Pick interesting décor pieces and antique furniture. A curved arm chair, an oddly shaped vase, a lamp stand made from driftwood or a wood ships d'art are some possibilities. Check out flea markets, antique shops and ethnic paradise stores for that unique conversation piece.

▸**Balance your décor.** Create an asymmetrical balance between large and small items in a room. Symmetrical décor pieces evenly so that no corner appears too crowded or heavy.

▸**Use area rugs to help expand floor area.** Area rugs can help break the pattern and trick the eye into thinking a space is bigger than it really is. Lighter shades and similar patterns are best. Rugs can also define the different areas of a room.

▸**Maximize walls.** Long artworks or picture frames since they draw the eye and provide visual stimulation.

Balance wall accents. Complement a large painting with a set of small ones and visibly colored art pieces with monochromatic photos for asymmetrical balance.

▸**Divert attention with vertical accents.** Vertical pieces like tall vases, bamboo or cogon stalk pieces, floor lamps or indoor plants can serve as focal points. These are best placed beside or behind a sofa set, or at corners to liven up dead spaces.

▸**Allow natural light to liven up the home.** Use layered sheer curtains to create different effects at various times of day. More light gives more life to any room.

The A. Venue Residences offers 204 one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom residential units with beam-less and column-less design. The project is expected to be completed third quarter of 2007, including a row (area) with 28 floors that will house the residential components of the complex.

ACCENT art pieces create focus for the eye, making the room feel larger and adding character, similar to the effect provided by the decorative ladder (above).

The only green tea that's brewed & bottled on the same day!

A POCKET GARDEN IS INTIMATE, FUN AND LOW-MAINTENANCE

Small wonde

By Chris Batot-Fontrier

IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME THAT our mouth could be made more pleasant just by changing the view from our dining room window until I happened to look up from reading the layouts while having breakfast one morning.

Outside, because the eight windows that dole to the inlet and give a full view of the outside, had what I saw that morning was an ugly backyard tableau. Trash bins filled to overflowing before the garbage trucks came around to collect, I haven't the faintest idea). Clothesline from which several looking rope were hanging. Dirty laundry being tossed indoors before being piled in to wash). A concrete backyard topped. Ashes shaker by limbed wiring to discourage the criminal elements. A storage area for our surplus junk. Next to it, the inside bathroom with its door ajar (there you have a panoramic concept of a closed door). Not a pretty sight. (Tell you, not a pretty sight.

Household zen

Now, if you're thinking, "And this is the home of a lifestyle editor?" I can't blame you. If you want to know the truth, I can't cook either. There was a time when I wished I could have a gleam mug type of home, spotless and domestic, but I got over the Martha Stewart complex when I realized my kids were more traumatized by my yelling every time I found barnacles gum stuck to the carpet. The time became a huge fan of household zen. Why torture myself out if the end is not killing? Why bother with curtains if the neighbors are not lurk? Why live over the looming if there are still clothes in the closet? That kind of zen.

But every now and then I do go through a "nesting" period (as opposed to my usual "floundering" period) and remember that I have a filial duty to keep a pleasant home for my mom, my husband and my kids. That's when I look around the house and get the urge to makeover an area. One year it was the living room. Another time, it was the den. That morning that I looked out the window and saw a few more dismal days the page one room on the Presidents, my nesting mode switched on.

My family needed something to block out all the ugly scrape of daily living that loom oppressive and our backyard, and I knew the solution was simple: a garden. A pocket of green that would allow us to enjoy the space outside as much as we do the inside of our home. But how to create one in a backyard that has been paved over with concrete? Lorena Ona, a Jova key gardener who runs his own landscaping business in Marina Baja, had the answer.

Half-a-day job

Some people will want you that a pocket garden doesn't happen overnight or that it's because they haven't met the Jose brothers. Ours took only half a day to set up. I would have until forgot it had Lorena suggested drilling and digging out the concrete flooring. I would have thrown the idea out the window had he said it would take 1-5 days. But he showed up at my door one day to look at the space, and the next was getting my mouth sun and promised to return another day in a few weeks, he was back with his truck, crew and supplies.

Only half the backyard was going to be turned into a garden. We still needed the other half for doing the laundry. So Lorena and his crew got up weathered wood slats to skirt the garden area.

To filter the sunlight into soft shade, Lorena used a plastic netting material overhead. The dappled effect was beautiful.

Lorena knew that in a small garden, just as in a small house, the main concern was to maximize the available space. So he went for layering. He placed the large plants in the rear, the smaller ones in front. One huge plant and some shrub would have filled our 9 x 6.5 ft enclosure but he chose instead a palette of tropical plants for a fascinating combination of leaf shapes—tasty polypodium ferns, dieffenbachias, MacArthur palms, bromeliads, schefflera palms. For the three walls, Lorena used Walnut in lieu. Blazing its brig and mountain trees. To cover the concrete flooring, Lorena scattered white pebbles. These helped make the small space look larger.

If you have the space and the time, you can, of course, have a flower for your garden—Italian, Japanese, English cottage. But since mine is so small, it's just a garden, period. Low maintenance, confining formal, soothing fancy.

BEFORE AND AFTER

Angels and frog

Mine looks so different now that Lorena promised to me. It's my garden so I have done with it as I pleased. I've added stuff from my own with little Angel statuettes. The latest of my antiquants, found objects, a clay frog taking shelter under a clay leaf for an unexpected Japanese touch: it acting as lights for evening ambiance.

To the white pebbles that cover the concrete flooring, I have added glass beads that sparkle in the sun and glisten in the rain.

I am a horticultural dummy, so I can't identify the plants that we've bought to replace the ones that have died (coaxing a garden). I can think that we've the right plants because they're heartbreakingly beautiful, especially the light shoots and dazzle of the angels' eyes.

I'm looking forward to col

Free lectures on plants, flowers

EDEN GARDEN HOUSE AT EDEN, corner Quinton Avenue, Quinton City, is hosting free livelihood-oriented lectures on plants, flowers and food technologies on weekends. Call 9295540, 9270514 or 7139833/36.

Seminars and speakers for May 9th:

May 4, 5-8 p.m.—Soap making (powder, herbal, dish washing), Elvira Quintana

May 5, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 01, Sue Ling

May 6, 9-11 a.m.—Organic Agriculture, Agenor Valdes. Quality food, Health, Lifestyle & Clean Environment, Eva Rose Diaz. Making Pasala Texas seen, Teresa

2-5 p.m., Basic Flower Arrangement, Pearl Ramsay

May 7, 2-5 p.m.—Wedding Flowers, Sherrel

May 8, 5-8 p.m.—Novelty Items, Oceana

Admission is on a first come, first served basis. Kits will be available at P35 each for 25 registrants.

May 9, 1-4 p.m.—Perfume Making (cream, roll on, cologne spray set.), Oceana

May 10, 5-8 p.m.—Balloon Arrangement, Raul Quevedo

May 12, 5-8 p.m.— Fundamentals of Horticulture 02, Ding

May 13, 9-11 a.m.—Production of Organic Fertilizer and Natural Insecticides, Renato Bayawa

2-5 p.m.—Flower arrangement for Special Occasions, Jimmy

May 14, 2-5 p.m.—Advanced Flower Arrangement, Bonita Gallo

May 15, 5-8 p.m.—Fruits and Vegetables Preservation, Oceana

May 17, 5-8 p.m.—Meat Processing 1 (Adobo, Longganisa, Asado, hamburger pastee and quick cured ham), Oceana

May 18, 5-8 p.m.—Meat Processing 2 (embutido, spread beef, meat nuggets and corned), Oceana

May 19, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 3, Ding

May 20, 9-11 a.m.—Rice Insecticide Vegetable Production, Ed Buitenhuijs

2-5 p.m.—Fish Processing, Oceana

May 21, 2-5 p.m.— Candy Making, (chocolate molding, no-cook candies and polvoron (no queso), Oceana

May 22, 5-8 p.m.—Native fish cuisine (paksi, paksi pao, kinilaw and paksi pochi), Oceana

May 23, 5-8 p.m.—Jams and Jellies (pineapple jam, mango jam and homemade fruit cocktail), Oceana

May 26, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 4, Ding

May 27, 9-11 a.m.—Organic Cultivation and Organic Agriculture, Valdino Pebble Valley, Dr. Buffy Sanson

2-5 p.m.—The Art of Gift Wrapping, Penny Eugenio

May 28, 2-5 p.m.—Candle Making, Oceana

May 30, 5-8 p.m.—Stuffed Toy Making, Oceana

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Kits are available at P150 each for 25 participants, who should bring their own pairs of scissors.

PLANTS (above) are ranks are par in bonsai pots.

M

By Seraphin G
Contributor

...s in the way the stars of the bamboo and mangrove palm dotting the garden. ...ver in tall palms and hanging plants.

...and you have the ...pocket garden in ...n, dried fern and ...f for colours in ...e you. Once it's ...

...it into the garden ...

MY HEROES. Lovina and Jose-...Jun Ines

...ffect of life even in ...must have shown ...garden looks so ...recently, when the ...ver the leaves and ...

...ecting a variety of ...

...lini trees on rocks

...Neills

...G OR ROCKGROWN ...rally those cultivated as bonsai, ...morning.

...plants that can be cultivated on ...his garden more than 20 ca... ...candle trees (Parmentiera ...ring hydria, various Ficus), ...varies (Murraya exotica cul... ...ngia acuminata), ...Ixora (Ixora chinensis), ...Jasminum ...ver like Ixora, ...wonde grana...

...the best are volcanic and ...ous stone (Bauhinia and ...ruticosa), and the smooth, river ...ones of plants can easily chang... ...the only aged rocks, proba... ...ve already seasoned roots.

...e to plant is during the rainy ...ason when the root easily fits ...o holes, should be fully root... ...ove more long.

...ock without damaging the ...the roots in such a way that ...distributed and in a sloping ...

GREEN TIPS

Apply clay soil all over the roots to make them stick. Cover all roots and rocks with moist sphagnum moss. To make sure the moss stays in place for at least six months or more, tie it tightly to the rock with a string or twine.

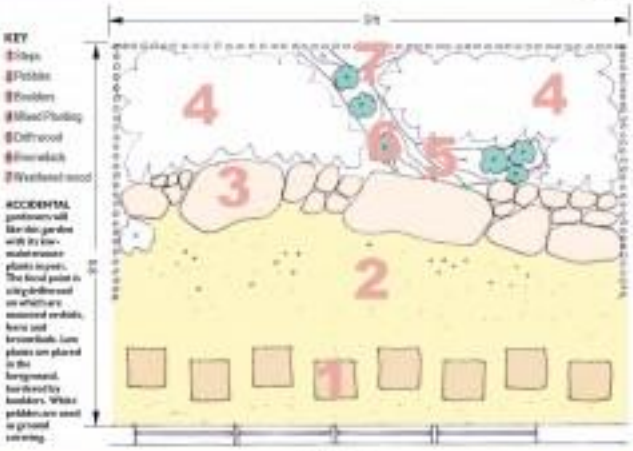
Put your rock in a bonsai pot with potting medium at the bottom. Tie the rock to the pot to keep it steady as it does not fall. Secure soil by water immediately and place in a shady location.

You should water your new specimen twice or more daily. When new growths appear, usually after three or more months, transfer the plant to a pot fully secure place. After another month or so, move the plant to where it will get full sunlight. Leave the string and moss in the plant to rot.

To make the bonsai or other trees artistic, train them to bonsai style. Prune unwanted branches and new ones to achieve the desired shape and look of an ancient contorted tree.

If you want to learn more about growing plants on rocks, check out schedules of seminar workshops on bonsai culture and other plant arts.

(All the writer at SOMPOM at 8417-8833 ext. 502.



Easy-does-it instant pocket garden

A GARDEN IS A PERSONAL place. There is no right or wrong way to style it.

Most landscape gardeners will tell you there are two basic questions you need to answer when you're thinking of creating a pocket garden.

One is, "What form it will take?" The other refers to the size of the space that you want to convert into a garden, where the sun falls, how much light it gets, etc.

The other question is, "What do I want?" This refers to how you want to use the space—the kind of garden you want to create. Do you want a Japanese garden with rocks and bonsais? A floral garden perhaps? Or a low-care garden where things grow naturally?

Here's a how-to guide to get you started on your own pocket garden.

STEP BY STEP

WHAT YOU NEED: Plants, of course. It's your choice—do you want to go for hanging plants or for color? Because your goal is an instant garden, your plants would have to be potted. Take care that the plant size is proportional to the container. You'll also need boulders, weathered wood, bamboo poles for scaling, pebbles for ground covering, pole pots, fabric, etc.

CLEAR out the area to be converted into a garden. Put up the poles to enclose the garden from the rest of the backyard, and to frame the soft landscape of plants and flowers. If the area you are working on is sunny, shop around for plants that can withstand the sun's rays.

INSTALL any striking features, and remember that's all it could go this way. Once the focal point is a big piece of weathered wood that enables the colorful elements of bromeliads and orchids.

MOUNTAIN ferns and hanging plants like Rabdadenia and Mussaenda fly long above the walls. Flowering plants provide color and scent. Palms and bromeliads and skeletonlike arts choose for colors, textures and contrasting shapes—rounded leaves and narrow blades. Three or four good plants make a good grouping.

BOULDERS add a feeling of stability and permanence as well as interesting design. Smooth pebbles cover the attractive-ugly concrete flooring. White pebbles have the ability to reflect light and are good for small gardens.

INEXPENSIVE slabs make do as step pads. Actual stones or adobe pads may be used. Besides smooth pebbles, chips, bark and gravel may be used as ground cover.

TWO NEW CONDOMINIUMS FEATURE BETTER ADDRESS, CIRCULATION AND GREAT VIEWS

ENTERTAINMENT system sets Grab and take up little or no space. Samsung 29" LCD TV (P14,990); Onkyo Scientific Music Element (P10,000); Cartier Neon device (1kg) (P16,000)

A tale of two spaces

A TALLYHO kitchen is created to be as efficient as possible without taking up too much space via a microwave oven and with appliances built-in. Electrolux Pop-up Bread Toaster, ETS130 (P7195), Electrolux Espresso Maker, EES200 (P5,995); Elba Stainless Electric range (P34,995); GE 18-cu-ft ref (P48,000); GE Microwave (P11,995)

RELAX INC's work space. Work would be less stressful with gadgets such as these and with a soothing view of the bedroom. Apple Mac and HP All-in-One Printer (prices available upon request)

INTIMATE SPACES, particularly condominiums by Community Innovation Intl. (CII), may enjoy all the coveted premiums as a luxury unit—high ceilings, air circulation, privacy and a great view.

It used to be that condo dwellers, as an homage for the light security of a condominium development, were limited to one-level, low-ceiling, box-type units that allowed for only very little to no circulation. There are even neighborly "flaws" and no other spaces left with condo dwelling.

Traditional studio flat units are even more oppressive. One factor of studio units that have no access to fresh air, some even don't have windows. "Air circulation" is limited to exhaust fans.

Meanwhile, luxury of high ceilings and the homelike atmosphere of an upscale and a downscale unit exclusive to penthouse units, which were prohibitively expensive.

Access to air

Community Innovations, an Ayala Land company that has urban dwellers needed precise reason to flaunt new commodities: a view, in-house privacy and access to freshly circulating air.

"We want to make the prestige and the space-friendly features of penthouse units to suit open intimate spaces," Bobby De, president of Community Innovations, said.

He cited the Tallyhow units in The Columns Legazpi Village (TCLV).

The second square area of 57 square meters may seem "small and cramped," but the way the units are laid out in the Tallyhow units allow for a neat separation of the public (living room, kitchen) and private space (personal study, bedroom) and sleeping space here by "carving" the space in two, with the private quarters in the second level of the unit.

Furniture are slim and unconventional and low-lying in order to create a contiguous line from the kitchen to the dining room and the living room.

The furniture and the office equipment in the bedroom are white and sleek, as they can easily seamlessly into the color of the wall.

The selection of white is deliberate in order to allow for lights to bounce off the walls, and the mirrors that have been very generously used in the living room and the bedroom.

All TCLV units, regardless of configuration, have the mandatory two windows. "One window is simply not enough to allow the air to circulate," said De.

The in-unit bounce off to the windows in the toilets and kitchens, which assures all units of uninterrupted fresh air.

The Tallyhow units also have no-cabin area which can be repurposed as a laundry area or a mini garden, or both.

Rooms with a view

Providing dwellers with a good view is Two Serendra, the Community Innovations project in the heart of Fort Bonifacio.

Because of the elliptical shape of Two Serendra, no one owns a view because.

"The curvilinear shape of the development was an interesting and an architectural feat," De said.

"So, too this, soothing material on the

FURNISHINGS AND DECOR ACCESSORIES FOR THIS ARTICLE COURTESY OF ACME, CASA ARMANI, CASA MOLINO, CASA MOLINO, CASA MOLINO

CAPE ILLUSION: A bookshelf in capiz turns into a bench, a capiz chandelier lamp turns into a side table, and with a few other touches such as shelf tabletop accessories, comfy pillows in leather, and a large mirror framed in capiz mosaic, you can turn a little corner into a cozy nook.

ART OF ZEN: Minimalism is in season, but in small spaces, style is always a good idea, as long as your decor is sculptural yet functional pieces to give it character. Play around with these fiberglass stools, a stone-can planter that doubles as a tea table, a flicker of candlelight...

LIGHT SOLUTION: With a simple glass cup, tea or chic-inspired lamps in fiberglass make a good tea table and a conversation piece. Polycarbon chairs by Kenneth Cobonpue for Marcel Wanders and miniature mannequins in shell and capiz as accent pieces

IMAGINATION IS ALL IT TAKES TO MAXIMIZE A MINI AREA

Living large in small dwellings

By A.A. Patawaran, *Contributor*
Photos by Fr. Ruel Rjuste

WE ARE A GENERATION IN a hurry. In the age of condominiums, where everything is within arm's length, we are perfectly fit. But coming from an era where home was on average 300 square meters, with a front lawn, a backyard, or a garden thrown in, it's quite natural to feel a bit claustrophobic living within 30 sq m of a studio.

But homes will inevitably get even smaller, warns Edwin Tabar, in-house architect of Consistory Innovations whose projects include The Columns and Serendra.

"Ten percent of land skyscraper, people will find it very difficult to own property closer to the city," he says. "Developers will find it harder to provide spacious units to offer the market evidence breaking the bank. This is evidence in places like Hong Kong, New York, London and Tokyo where living spaces are very tight."

Not to worry, architects and interior designers are rising to the challenge. One of Tabar's pioneering approaches at the Columns tycoon Avenue is to integrate a washing machine into the toilet and bath to free up the living area. "It's a first in such a market," he says.

Flow of energy

But living in miniature is not always about challenges. From the standpoint of feng shui, there is more in small homes than practical advantages. "For one, the energy is concentrated," says Princess Fernandez, proprietor of the Flo & Feng Shop of Harmony at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. "A big house with only three people in it is not good as there is not enough human energy in the home."

Glenn, however, is the worst enemy of chi. "Where everything is so cramped and movement is stifled," says Fernandez, "energy cannot flow freely." She warns against popular behaviors like tall beds that make room for a work corner underneath them. "This created a very low ceiling for the work area, where one may feel under so much pressure and have trouble standing up with creative ideas." Overhead, the bed that is too close to the ceiling is also a no-no.

Illusion of space

Karen Tapinchay, now an expatriate in The Hague, the Netherlands, bought a 38-sq m studio unit in Salcedo Village, Makati, where her only indulgence was making room for a big bed.

Tapinchay's creative solution was to convert one entire wall into usable storage space. "I had a huge cabinet done to cover nine whole walls, from the floor to the ceiling," she says. "Incorporated in the design were a wardrobe closet, a shoe closet, the entertainment center, a pop-out desk, and even shelves for my books." With most of the stuff tucked against the wall, Tapinchay had space for her huge bed, even if her living room had to double as a dining room and, with a sofa bed in it, triple also as a guest room.

More recently, when lifestyle journalist Hester Reyes moved into a 32-sq m one-bedroom unit in Makati, he had a more fun solution: shopping.

"I scoured all the furniture stores in Manila in search of streamlined, non-bulky stuff, if only so I could have a few indulgences such as a big TV set. (He yields included a lot of antiques, from chinoiserie rugs, brass dresser pulls to beddings. "In my view, vertical stripes added a few inches of height and horizontal ones, a few inches of width. It's all optical illusion. I also couldn't resist putting parquets on the wall, so I hung them higher up on the wall so looking up at them would give the impression of a high ceiling."

Stripes also work for fashion stylist Gisela Reyes, who recently moved into a two-storey apartment near the Bankard Center in Makati, applying powder blue stripes on her study cubicle's work area a mile that unobtrusively added height to her home of vintage and contemporary pieces.

"To me, dressing up a house is like dressing up a person," says Reyes. "I make sure the accessories direct the eyes where I want them."

There is, indeed, a standard of rules to maximizing space. For New York-based graphic designer Kitty Quisial and his wife, interior designer Myra Cruz-Ibarra Quisial, "invisible" furniture like glass tabletops and clear acrylic seating are among them.

"Paint walls a neutral color to open up the space," adds the couple. "And the ceiling should be white to create more height."

Double duty

Multipurpose furniture is the key to living large in a small place. Luckily, we need not look far and wide for such furniture anymore. Even the common items now occasionally offer such double-duty treats as ottomans that are hollow inside and with lift covers, coffee tables under which to keep photo albums and other knickknacks, or storage benches that double as twin beds. Why not let decorative boxes keep your clutter out of sight while providing design accents to your home?

Indeed, for inside the maze of space, you need to be masters of such magic tricks as disappearing acts and spatial illusions. Why not hide a dresser in the closet to declare the bedroom? Have a dishwasher custom built and installed under the sink, fold a shelf within an enticing shelf to put wanted space to good use. Why not fit a glass cutting board over the stovetop to create more counter space? Conceal the bathroom door with hidden hinges to make it blend in with the wall. Build a sliding rod in the shower so you have the option to soak, even if it means sitting up, down-and-cub style. And, of course, why not mirror?

"The use of mirrors can surely make any room seem double in size. But Faye Chiong-Cinamon, Milan-trained industrial designer and proprietor of Sook Gallery in Antipas, has mixed feelings about it.

"I can't stand it when people try to expand space by covering up a wall with mirrors from floor to ceiling. It makes me feel like I'm in some cheap Chinese restaurant," she says. "Large framed mirrors are more tasteful and you can move them from one wall to the other when you need a change."

Without a doubt, if you plan to stay in your condominium for a long time, you must make some kind of impact. Install different sources of lighting to vary the mood of your place or to create a different mood in each area. With castors on your furniture, you can achieve mobility, a luxury in a small room, and maintain your floor space. Ripping off some partitions is sometimes a good idea. For sliding doors in their place or even just curtains.

For home accessories designer Al Cinamon, what you need to open up space in your home is an open mind. "It's as simple as investing more time for unfinished home pieces," he says, buying those an upright bookshelf on the floor to turn it into a bench. Glass tops are a transformer, magically turning planters, lamps and vases into one-of-a-kind tables.

Creative planning

There are many other possibilities to expand your sense of space. Box in your windows for your favorite bulky furniture, such as an hutch-less dining table. "You can split it up like you would a space in a room," says Cinamon, "with a bright Indian throw or your grandmother's old lace, topped with flowers and table settings, on one half and some small artworks, some books, a lamp, and a mini-desk computer on the other." Voila, a dining area and a workplace in one!

The point here is to get creative with your space. If you're blessed with a high ceiling, why not turn it into a loft? With a few low beds, shelves, you can turn it into a library. With candles on all a nook, you can turn it into a meditation room. With some pillows, some music, and a mini-bar, you can turn it into your own private chill-out corner.

Where there is no window, why not let a fish tank open up a wall? The glass, along with the water, the light, and the swimming, gives the effect of a window to a fascinating view. Otherwise, break down walls and let in natural light. Extend your living room into the porch or your bedroom into the backyard or your bedroom into the balcony to engage the sky and the greenery into your home.

Space, indeed, has become a precious commodity. But more of us, it's a choice between living big in two-hour-drive suburban homes, and living small in shoe boxes multiplexing all over the city.

But with just a little bit of imagination, the smallest of homes can be as boundless as the universe and, with a touch of your personal style, as cozy as your own little paradise.

E-mail the author at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

ART OF TEA: Turned on its side, Clayton Tugonon's wave bench turns a bookcase to a tea corner with silk throw pillows, a lacquered tray bearing Chinese glass bowls, an a basket awaiting

PIECE DE RESISTANCE: All you need is a focal piece, such as this Mondrian-inspired wall piece doing double duty as a light source and an artwork. Cordillera bench gives contrast to the ultramodern fiberglass center table, as do cast aluminum sculptures by Gonesti Buenaventura to a console that turned into a chaise-side table and a storage bin underneath.

SHEER SEPARATION: Define your space with thin sheers panel divider in fiber glass or fine Japanese screen-inspired abaca twine curtain woven divider. Instead of enclosing areas, dividers seek to provide a delicate degree of separation with a lot of breathing space.

Cuna celebrates treasured islands

MOYY Cuna

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Heritage Conservation Society, presents "Rachabol: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Arrangement of the Philippines" May 4-25 at the hotel's lobby.

The one-of-a-kind show is in celebration of the Filipino Heritage Month. Showcasing the flowers of May, it will provide a refreshing twist to this "native" and holiest requisite creations of floral flowers and foliage all in vases, baskets, planters and other containers that reflect Filipino artistry and craftsmanship.

Cuna, an artist, master florist and author, draws from "everyday objects we find or step on" to create a tableau of outlandish relics. Guinness baskets, and a golden halo, a matter of the first goal.

"Sweet Inspiration," featuring dried materials accompanied with "wonderful bits of shell and stone that washed ashore," is a product of Rachabol giving for the beauty of Mindanao seas.

"Resources," on the other hand, a cocoatry of bamboo frameworks that defines traditional homes in the Visayas. Cuna's arrangement will showcase the versatility as well as plenty of bamboo both as a design component and a practical tool.

"Rachabol: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" is part of Cuna's personal mission to promote novel uses and applications of local designs and materials here and abroad.

Handy home tips

By Ronald Pasalo
Correspondent

Household chores may be perfect opportunities for families to bond while keeping the home in tip-top shape

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT planned a vacation trip for the long weekend, it is worthwhile to consider having family activities which we either let our household helpers do exclusively or simply neglect doing due to our workload and family concerns. This not only saves us the expense of traveling but also provides perfect opportunities to bond with the family and keep the home in tip-top shape as well.

Recently, I volunteered to do my share of chores by cleaning my wife's favorite kitchen appliances. This idea not only pursed a huge smile on my wife's face, but took up the interest of my two growing daughters as well.

As dad-of-the-marks image and he must enough to take on some household chores. Take it from your neighborhood handyman...

Microwave oven

Care

Avoid unnecessary splatter by covering dishes, using wax paper or paper towels when a lesson cover is desired. Use an appropriate cover for the cooking process. If oven does not have a removable glass shelf, a plate or paper towel under food cooked directly on oven floor can with baked potatoes keeps it clean.

Cleaning

Wipe up spills at once. Wash regularly with mild detergent and water and rinse and wipe dry with paper towel or clean cloth. Make sure to clean around edge of door and door opening to prevent soil buildup.

If spots have dried, boil water in a glass cup for a few minutes; steam should loosen soil. Leave in oven for five minutes. Then wipe dry.

For odors, clean the interior with a solution of 1 tablespoon baking soda to 1 cup room water; rinse and dry. Or mix 1 part lemon juice to 3 parts water in a large glass cup and boil three to five minutes. Let cool. Then remove water and wipe dry.

Never use abrasive pads or powders on oven. Follow manufacturer's directions.

Coffeemaker

Clean after each use to remove coffee oils and residue which will cause poor flavor in the next pot of coffee. Wash with warm sudsy water, rinse and dry. Or, eliminate porcelain, remove hard-water deposits with either a soap-filled steel wool pad, or by pushing with 1-2 tablespoons cream of tartar dissolved in water; rinse thoroughly.

Do not use alkalis such as baking soda, or chlorine bleach or aluminum. On chrome-plated and stainless steel pots, use commercial coffeepot cleaner to remove stubborn stains. Do not use cloths or aluminum scrubbers on these pots.

For electric drip coffee makers, if minerals and scale build up from hard water, periodically run a solution of half white vinegar and half water through it to dissolve scale. The heated solution may have to be run through the unit one or more times. Finish up a damp. Thoroughly rinse all parts of the unit. Run plain cold water through a cycle to remove all traces.

Flat iron

Care

To remove melted plastic and fabrics attached to the iron base, heat at low setting just until material softens, and scrape off with a smooth wooden spatula or half a wooden clothespin. If some remains, make a paste with baking soda and water or other polish and rub. Wipe off with damp cloth. For a nonstick sole plate, rub gently with cotton swab and cool rub. Acetone or nail polish remover may remove melted polyester.

Cleaning

To, cleaning clogs from steam iron due to minerals in water, follow use guide directions for cleaning, or use a commercial iron cleaner. A fine needle at the inside hole may open it again. Sometimes "steaming" will remove lint clogging the iron. Fill with at least ½-cup water, set it to "steam," and hold in the air or set the iron over each over heat-resistance resistant surface like a covered protective mat. Let it steam until empty. Using only distilled water in steam irons helps avoid mineral buildup.

Toaster

Remove crumbs regularly, and unplug before doing this. Unplug before using is allowed, to remove a stuck piece of toast. In removing food or cleaning, be careful not to damage fine wiring, which do the toasting. Better to keep the toaster covered when not in use in order to protect it from insects and cobwebs.

I suggest you do these tasks regularly to keep appliances in perfect condition. It's important also that we impart this habit to our children at an early age so they become responsible for things at home and learn the value of investments. More importantly, they can look back to these bonding moments as timeless treasures when it's their turn to run the house.

With this list of to-dos, I can foresee a sigh of relief the coming alone impressive vacations while looking forward to doing honey stuff with my daughters, pleasing my wife and happening a new aspect of my life as everybody's neighborhood handyman.

The author is an engineer, a certified handyman and a family man.

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For more handy tips, log on to www.handyman.com.ph and check out the handy tips page.